

ST FRANCIS OF ASSISI, DERWOOD

Mass Intentions

July 17 - July 23

Monday, 7/17	9:00 a.m. Marilyn Paganin
Tuesday, 7/18	9:00 a.m. Jack D'Aurora
Wednesday, 7/19	9:00 a.m. Reverend Thomas Crowley 7:30 p.m. Bernard J. Kohan Jr. Family (L)
Thursday, 7/20	9:00 a.m. Pablo Yaptinchay
Friday, 7/21	9:00 a.m. Jack D'Aurora
Saturday, 7/22	9:00 a.m. Bishop William C. Newman 5:00 p.m. Katherine Parnell
Sunday, 7/23	8:00 a.m. <i>Pro populo</i> 9:30 a.m. Joanne & Maria Genovese 11:15 a.m. Sylvia & Peter Fonseca 5:00 p.m. Marie Jeanne Violette Tayen

Please pray for the sick... Evelyn Haddad, Donna Ruffin, Carolyn Maltz, Mary Fiumara, Carolyn Speaks, Bart Trickett, Katrina Schmidt, Bienvenido Delrosario, Kathy Denchfield, Jackie Roebuck King, Bob Coyne, Jeni Stepanek, Debbie & Roger Petrocelli. (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 Carla Cosman, daughter of Millie Cosman, Rodol Reyes, brother of Mila Oasam, Reverend Edward Evans, Archdiocese of Washington,

Readings for the Week of July 16, 2017

Sunday:	Is 55:10-11/Ps 65:10-14/Rom 8:18-23/ Mt 13:1-23
Monday:	Ex 1:8-14, 22/Ps 124:1-8/Mt 10:34--11:1
Tuesday:	Ex 2:1-15/Ps 69:3, 14, 30-31, 33-34/ Mt 11:20-24
Wednesday:	Ex 3:1-6, 9-12/Ps 103:1b-4, 6-7/Mt 11:25-27
Thursday:	Ex 3:13-20/Ps 105:1, 5, 8-9, 24-27/Mt 11:28-30
Friday:	Ex 11:10--12:14/Ps 116:12-13, 15, 16-18/ Mt 12:1-8
Saturday:	Sg 3:1-4b/Ps 63:2-6, 8-9/Jn 20:1-2, 11-18
Next Sunday:	Wis 12:13, 16-19/Ps 86:5-6, 9-10, 15-16/ Rom 8:26-27/Mt 13:24-43

Scripture Corner PARABLES

PARABLES form an important part of Jesus' teaching ministry. Matthew highlights a Day of Parables in chapter 13 of his Gospel. The first Gospel has these five special discourses by Christ. The Sermon on the Mount (5-7); the Missionary Discourse (10); the Day of Parables (13); Discourse on Church Order (18); Eschatological Discourse (25).

The parables of our Lord are based on real-life situations. The challenge to the listener is to find the deeper meaning of the parable. Each parable deals with the kingdom of heaven. Since the community being addressed by Matthew is mostly Jewish-Christian, the evangelist has Christ using kingdom of heaven out of respect for the Jewish people rather than kingdom of God (Yahweh). Matthew teaches today that the kingdom of God is intended for all! The seed is scattered throughout the area. Should the seed find good soil, there will be an abundant harvest, "a hundred or sixty or thirty-fold." (Matthew 13:8) The amazing work of the early apostles in spreading God's word has the great harvest promised by our Lord.

Unfortunately the seed does not always find good soil. Jesus presents the obstacles to the acceptance of his word. The parables note the intervention of the devil (seed on the path), lack of adequate commitment (seed on rocky ground), too much concern about this world and its wealth (seed among thorns) Both Isaiah and Jesus want ALL with God's help to truly "understand with their heart and be converted." (Matthew 13:15)

The text in today's first reading from Isaiah (Isaiah 55:10-11) is also a parable. The word of God stands for the effective word of the Father. The text says, "My word shall not return to me void, but shall do my will, achieving the end for which I sent it." In the new Testament that text applies perfectly to Christ and to his work. "The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us, and we saw his glory, the glory of the Father's only Son, full of grace and truth." (John 1:14)

Fr. Ralph

The Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

QUESTION OF THE WEEK

What kind of soil have I been this past week? How can I become better soil this week?

JOIN US - ST. FRANCIS MEN'S MINI-RETREAT "Putting First Things First"

Join us for a half-day retreat on the beautiful grounds of St. Anselm's Abbey in Washington, DC. We will discuss what we put before Christ and what we can do to put Him first again. There will be Mass, Reconciliation (available), Liturgy of the Hours with the monks, short talks, reflection time, fellowship, and relaxation.

When: July 22, 2017 from 8:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Where: St. Anselm's Abbey, 4501 South Dakota Avenue, N.W. Washington DC

Cost: Free Will (\$15 suggested); brown bag lunch, coffee, donuts and light snacks provided.

RSVP (appreciated) and questions:

Wendel Hall – wendel@halllawoffice.net (202) 744-3250

PICK UP A BAG TO DONATE FOOD FOR THE SUMMER IN THE CITY FOOD DRIVE

If you haven't already, please pick up a grocery bag after Mass this weekend to contribute to the Summer in the City Food Drive taking place July 22/23 at St. Francis of Assisi Parish. Parishioners are encouraged to fill the bag with non-perishable, canned goods and return it to church next weekend. The food collected will benefit needy parish food pantries in inner city Washington DC – St. Thomas More, St. Francis Xavier, St. Luke and Holy Name.

In addition to picking up a grocery bag from church this weekend, the paper bags will also be available in a stand on the Rectory porch from July 15-21, so members of the public can participate in the canned goods collection, as well. For more information, please contact Social Concerns Ministry Coordinator [Tony Bosnick](#).

Montgomery County Fair

August 11 - 19 Food Booth 37

If you missed signing up to volunteer at the Fair, you can still volunteer by calling Sylvia Jones, (301) 762-6564 or the Parish Office to sign-up. Students 14 and older can earn Student Service Learning Hours by volunteering. Students must be 16 to work in the kitchen. Students 14-15 can help with busing tables, delivering orders. **Volunteer assignments will be posted in the Gathering Space the weekend of July 22/23.**

THE MUSINGS OF THE PASTOR

In my column today I want to draw attention to another issue of great concern to the Catholic Bishops of Maryland. This is the issue of human trafficking. On April 3, 2017, our Bishops issued a statement in which they remind us that human trafficking is an international, national, and local scourge and a grave violation of the dignity and freedom of all its victims. Human trafficking includes both labor and sex trafficking, and rivals the global drug industry in its scope and profits. Human trafficking affects the lives of countless victims from all over the world.

The Catholic Bishops of Maryland go on to note that Maryland is not immune from this tragic reality. Indeed, our state is a prime location for local, national, and international trafficking owing to the Interstate 95 corridor that connects multiple major cities in the region, the number of truck and rest stops along the highways, and the ease of travel that the Baltimore Washington International Thurgood Marshall airport allows to and from the state of Maryland.

Our bishops also state that perhaps the most distressing aspect of human trafficking is the cloak of silence gripping its victims. Human trafficking preys upon the vulnerable, such as those seeking to escape poverty and violence, runaways, and those hindered by language barriers and ignorance of the law. The Gospel calls us to break this yoke of modern-day slavery by raising awareness about the scope of this problem and doing all that we can as Catholics to recognize, set free, embrace, and empower our brothers and sisters who are victims of human trafficking.

A lot of work is already being done by multiple entities to rescue and meet the needs of victims of trafficking, to dismantle trafficking networks, to hold perpetrators accountable for their actions, and to write laws to protect victims and prevent others from becoming victims. In solidarity with these efforts our bishops have pledged to devote the resources of the Church to support, unify, and expand these efforts wherever possible.

In their statement of April 3, 2017, the Catholic Bishops of Maryland announce that they will sponsor regional trainings throughout the state beginning in the spring of 2017, at which they will bring together national, state, and local experts who will provide participants with effective tools to combat human trafficking in our local communities.

Our bishops close their statement by reminding us all that Pope Francis has spoken passionately about "this plague on the body of contemporary humanity" from the very beginning of his papacy. Here is a statement that Pope Francis made about this in his Message for the 2015 World Day of Peace:

"I urgently appeal to all men and women of good will, and all those near or far, including the highest levels of civil institutions, who witness the scourge of contemporary slavery, not to become accomplices in this evil, nor to turn away from the sufferings of our brothers and sisters, our fellow human beings, who are deprived of their freedom and dignity. Instead, may we have the courage to touch the suffering flesh of Christ, revealed in the faces of those countless persons whom he calls 'the least of these my brethren.'" (Matthew 25:40, 45).

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, July 18, 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 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 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.

FAITH & FOOD: FILM SERIES, DISCUSSION & REFRESHMENTS

How does our faith apply to food? What would it look like if we ate according to what is best for our health, for the environment, for society, for food laborers, for the health care system, for animals, and for God's glory and greater service toward others? Join us for this film-discussion series on how we can be virtuous and socially responsible through what we eat every day. Healthy, delicious, and filling plant-based food will be served. Sunday Evenings: July 16 - Sept 3; 6:30 - 8:30, Parish Meeting Room. St. Dominic Church, 630 E St SW, Washington, D.C. 20024 (Metro: L'Enfant Plaza). Visit website for detailed information on the films: www.stdominicchurch.org/events.

MINISTRY SPOTLIGHT

The St. Vincent de Paul Society

The St. Vincent de Paul Society is a relatively new organization at St. Francis parish. When Fr. John Dillon came to the parish, he sought to establish a conference of the Society at St. Francis to help the parish respond to requests for help from the poor and vulnerable in the Derwood area and beyond.

We began in 2015 and were mentored for the first year by members of the Society in the Archdiocese of Washington as we learned about the call and mission. The national Society approved us as a new conference in the Archdiocese in January 2016. "Conference" is the official name for a parish chapter.

The St. Vincent de Paul Society responds to requests of people of all faiths and no faith. Our primary area is Derwood, but we go beyond that area when we discern a need to do so because help is not being offered in those areas.

While the Society at St. Francis is a parish-based organization, we are part of an international society of over 800,000 members founded in 1833 in Paris, France by Blessed Frederick Ozanam. The Society came to the United States in 1845 and established the first conference in St. Louis, MO, which remains the national headquarters in the United States.

An international organization with local conferences

Service and ministry to the needy through the Society is based on the work of members who "seek their personal holiness through works of charity." While we do social work, we are not primarily social workers by profession. We are challenged to grow in the understanding that we are ministers of Christ and reflect the life and love of Christ to those we meet and serve.

It is challenging work, because this ministry calls us to seek to act as Jesus would. We are challenged to ask ourselves "What would Jesus do?" In addition to that, we face limited resources and must be prudent stewards of the funds donated to help us operate. At the same time, we need to trust that God is generous and provides for the needs. We have found this to be the case, and members of other conferences tell us the same.

The Society provides training for members throughout the year. We have found that it can take a year or more to grow comfortable with the work, especially the visits we make in two-person teams to the homes of people requesting help. After the home visits, we discuss what our response should be. The work is challenging, but rewarding.

A mystical meaning present to us today

As we seek and struggle to live out our mission, we are inspired by the words of Pope Francis: "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*, para 233). We come in touch with this reality through our ministry in the St. Vincent de Paul Society. If that is something you yearn for, perhaps membership in the Society is something for you.

There are currently only four members of the Society at St. Francis: Carolyn Brauer, Betty Baklarz, Joan Milsted and Tony Bosnick. Fr. John serves as our chaplain.

For more information about the Society, see the national website at <https://www.svdpusa.org/>. Pray about and consider if you are called to participate in the Society. Talk with any of our members and consider coming to one of our meetings to see what we do. We generally meet on the second and fourth Thursdays of the month in the Assisi Room in the Rectory. Our next meeting is at 7 p.m. Thursday, July 27, in the Assisi Room. For more information, call Social Concerns Coordinator Tony Bosnick at (301) 840-1407, Ext. 11.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS/EVENTS

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 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.

YOUTH MINISTRY NEWS/EVENTS

ST. FRANCIS YOUTH MINISTRY

Upcoming Events

FRED

JULY

- 16 FRED Summer Nights
- 23 FRED Summer Nights

AUGUST

- 6 FRED Summer Nights
- 8 Youth Appreciation Day
- 12 Bowie Baysocks Game
- 13 Fred Summer Nights
- 21-25 Middle School Service Camp
- 26 Faith Night at the Nats Game
- 27 FRED Summer Nights

GET SOCIAL

*Instagram "SFASusie"

"FRED - SFA Youth Ministry" Page on Facebook

"St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church" page on Facebook
Twitter @SusanFREDLea

YOUNG ADULTS, YOUNG FAMILIES URGED TO ATTEND WORLD YOUTH DAY UNITE ON JULY 22

St. Francis of Assisi's young adults and young families are encouraged to attend World Youth Day UNITE, a national young adult and young family festival taking place Saturday, July 22, at the St. John Paul II National Shrine in Washington DC. Billed as a moment of national unity and authentic communion for all young adults, the day-long event will feature unifying worship, inspiring talks by dynamic bishops, and music by musical artists Audrey Assad and Tony Melendez.

The theme of the event – chosen by Pope Francis – is "The Mighty One Has Done Great Things for Me and Holy is His Name." The schedule of events for the day include:

- Keynote talks by Bishop Nelson Perez and Bishop Frank Caggiano
- Prayer at the Hour of Mercy followed by Mass celebrated by Cardinal Donald Wuerl, Bishop Mark Brennan and Bishop Perez
- Dinner catered by Chick-Fil-A
- Concert by Tony Melendez, a guitar player who plays with his feet
- Eucharistic Adoration with Audrey Assad

Admission to the daylong event will be \$25, while admission at the door is \$35. Register for the event by going to www.wyduite.com. Children's Catechesis and babysitting will be provided by the Sister Servants of the Lord during the first keynote talk by Bishop Perez and ensuing panel discussion.

Director of Youth Ministry and Young Adults Sue Lea plans to attend and hopes to assemble a small group of St. Francis young adults to go, as well. For more information, contact Sue at SFAYouth@sfadw.org.

JULY @ ST. FRANCIS

16	New Parishioner Welcome (Rectory)	2:30 pm
	FRED Summer Nights (YR)	6:00 pm
20	Alanon Mtg (Lib)	7:00 pm
21	CL Mtg (AR)	8:00 pm
22-23	Mulholland Food Collection	
	FRED Summer Nights (YR)	6:00 pm
26	Martha & Mary Women's Group (YR)	7:30pm
27	St. Vincent de Paul Mtg (AR)	7:00 pm
	Alanon Mtg (Lib)	7:00 pm
28	CL Mtg (AR)	8:00 pm

SHADY GROVE PREGNANCY CENTER

Saving Lives - Supporting Families

The Shady Grove Pregnancy Center is in need of volunteers with a heart for women experiencing crisis pregnancies. Looking to train daytime volunteers who want to become pregnancy counselors. Training consists of classes held Monday & Thursday, 6:30 - 9:30 p.m. Dates: July 27, 31, August 3,7,10,14,17,21. For details call Jackie Stippich, Executive Director, (301) 963-6223.

RIGHT TO LIFE OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY

This year, Right to Life of Montgomery County will again have a pro-life booth at the Montgomery County Fair, August 11-19. If you are interested in helping out at the booth please call Tharpa Roberts, (301) 962-5611 or rtl-mc@verizon.net. If you volunteered last year, Tharpa will be calling you to see if you can help again this year. Your help is greatly appreciated.

SERVICE ON THE PASTORAL COUNCIL CAN HELP YOU IN YOUR PROFESSIONAL LIFE TOO

Teens and young adults, are you looking to develop your professional skills and serve St. Francis of Assisi Parish? Consider running this fall for a seat on the Pastoral Council, an all-volunteer body that advises the pastor on issues germane to the parish. The Pastoral Council is especially interested in recruiting parishioners in their late teens, 20s and 30s; members receive many opportunities to develop their small group leadership skills, work on teams and view an organization from a strategic perspective.

If you are a parishioner who is 16 years and older, can commit to attending one meeting per month for 10 months of the year, and can serve a three-year term beginning January 1, 2018, then you are eligible to run for the Pastoral Council. Come meet with members of the Pastoral Council after all Masses this weekend at the Information Desk in the Gathering Space to learn more about the council's role.

For more information, please contact Pastoral Council Co-Chair Alicia Church, alicia.church@collaborationcouncil.org or Miguel Welanetz at welawhat@msn.com.

COMMEMORATIVE MASS

On Gettysburg Battlefield Hancock Avenue near the Pennsylvania Memorial. Next to the statue of Father William Corby, CSC, giving absolution to the soldiers at Gettysburg. Saturday, July 22, 5:00 p.m. Sponsored by the Workers of St. Joseph, www.theworksofstjoseph.org.

SFA HEALTH MINISTRY

Encouraging health and wellbeing of body, mind and soul

Have a Heart Healthy Summer this July

July 01, 2017 American Heart Association

Protect your heart this summer! We're embracing some of the hottest temperatures of the year. People are soaking up the sun and staying active, but the heat can be harmful to your heart health. This summer, the American Heart Association wants to encourage you to protect your heart in every way you can.

Hydration Station! Hydrating is critical for your heart health.

Water is best. Keeping the body hydrated helps the heart more easily pump blood through the blood vessels to the muscles. And, it helps the muscles work efficiently. Dehydration can occur when you don't replace body fluids lost by sweating. Being even slightly dehydrated can make you feel bad and put you at greater risk for heat-related illnesses like heat exhaustion and heat stroke.

Watch for these signs of mild to moderate dehydration: Thirst, Dry or sticky mouth, Dry, cool skin, Headache, Muscle cramps, Not urinating much or darker-colored urine.

Take Action: Stop exercising right away. Sip water or suck on ice cubes. Move to the shade or indoors. Douse yourself with cold water. Apply cold, wet cloths to the neck, groin and armpits. Seek medical attention if your condition doesn't improve or gets worse.

Think you're ready to brave the heat?

- Watch the clock and buddy up. It's best to avoid the outdoors in the early afternoon (about noon to 3 p.m.) when sun is usually at its strongest, putting you at higher risk for heat-related illnesses.
- If you can, exercise with a friend, because it's safer — and more fun — to have someone at your side!
- Protect your family from the sun: wear wide-brimmed hats, always apply water-resistant sunscreen with at least SPF 15 and reapply sunscreen every 2 hours.

BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT

A free 6 week Perinatal Loss Support for families who have lost a baby through miscarriage, infant death or stillbirth. This parent-to-parent group is designed to allow those grieving to share feelings and receive comfort. Tuesday: July 18-August 22, 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Adventist HealthCare Shady Grove Medical Center. To register (240) 481-3903, Jeanine L. McGrath or e-mail jeaninemcgrath@gmail.com.

MONTGOMERY HOSPICE BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT

Free workshops for anyone who lives or works in Montgomery County. Each is led by a professional counselor. Register: (301) 921-4400.

JOURNALING AND GRIEF WORKSHOP MINISERIES

July 11 and July 18 - 6:30-8:00 pm

For anyone mourning the death of a loved one. A 2-session workshop that will focus on journaling techniques to address grief issues. No previous experience necessary.

1355 Piccard Dr., Rockville

DROP-IN DISCUSSION ABOUT GRIEF AND HEALING

July 18 - 6:30-8:00 pm

August 3 - 1:30-3:00 pm

August 15 - 6:30-8:00 pm

For anyone mourning the death of a loved one.

1355 Piccard Dr., Rockville

LOSS OF A SIBLING GRIEF TWO-SESSION WORKSHOP

August 1 and August 8 - 6:30-8:00 pm

A 2-session workshop for anyone mourning the death of a sibling.

1355 Piccard Dr., Rockville