

ST FRANCIS OF ASSISI, DERWOOD

Mass Intentions

July 31 - August 6

Monday , 7/31	9:00 a.m. Albert Shortz
Tuesday , 8/1	9:00 a.m. Deacon Samuel Minor
Wednesday , 8/2	9:00 a.m. Bishop William Newman of Baltimore
	7:30 p.m. Catherine Dillon Bullen
Thursday , 8/3	9:00 a.m. Amelia Dudenhoeffer
Friday , 8/4	9:00 a.m. Barbara Lynn Beall
	7:30 p.m. Jane Spieler
Saturday , 8/5	9:00 a.m. Marie Payen
	5:00 p.m. Connie Tallman
Sunday , 8/6	8:00 a.m. Lee Beng
	9:30 a.m. Mary Lou Taylor
	11:15 a.m. <i>Pro populo</i>
	5:00 p.m. Paul Yeast

+ In Memoriam Aeternam +

In your charity, please pray for the repose of the soul of Reverend Arne A. Panula, Opus Dei and Deacon Robert L. Connelly, Archdiocese of Washington.

Please pray for the sick...Tom Krafchik, Esther Torres, Bernard Kohan, Sr., Evelyn Haddad, 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.*)

Readings for the Week of July 30, 2017

Sunday:	1 Kgs 3:5, 7-12/Ps 119:57, 72, 76-77, 127-130/ Rom 8:28-30/Mt 13:44-52
Monday:	Ex 32:15-24, 30-34/Ps 106:19-23/Mt 13:31-35
Tuesday:	Ex 33:7-11; 34:5b-9, 28/Ps 103:6-13/ Mt 13:36-43
Wednesday:	Ex 34:29-35/Ps 99:5-7, 9/Mt 13:44-46
Thursday:	Ex 40:16-21, 34-38/Ps 84:3-6a, 8a, 11/ Mt 13:47-53
Friday:	Lv 23:1, 4-11, 15-16, 27, 34b-37/ Ps 81:3-6, 10-11/Mt 13:54-58
Saturday:	Lv 25:1, 8-17/Ps 67:2-3, 5, 7-8/Mt 14:1-12
Next Sunday:	Dn 7:9-10, 13-14/Ps 97:1-2, 5-6, 9/ 2 Pt 1:16-19/Mt 17:1-9

Scripture Corner

BURIED TREASURE

Jesus completes his day of parables in today's Gospel (Matthew 13:44-52). The parables are rather short, but they make important points. The first two are the parable of the buried treasure and the parable of the pearl of great price. Both make the same point, namely, that the kingdom of God is a priceless gift, worth any sacrifice.

The third parable of a net cast into the sea makes the same point as the earlier parable of the weeds among the wheat. The kingdom of God will have a mixture of good and evil until the end of time. Those who are faithful to Jesus will be rewarded. "He (Christ) will send out his angels with a trumpet blast, and they will gather elect from the four winds, from one end of the heavens to the other." (Matthew 24:31) The wicked will end up in the fiery furnace.

There are two great examples of persons who willingly followed the invitation into the kingdom of God. In today's first reading (1 Kings 3:5; 7-12) God is pleased with Solomon who did not ask for gifts for himself. God appreciates the request of Solomon for an understanding heart. The king is assured that he will receive "a heart so wise and understanding that there has never been anyone like you up to now, and after you there will come no one to equal you." (1 Kings 3:12) Every follower of our Lord is encouraged to ask God for an understanding heart, as did Solomon. All Christians would also do well to follow the example of Matthew. Jesus called Matthew as he was involved in his work at the customs post. "He said to him, 'Follow me.' And he got up and followed him." (Matthew 9:9)

Fr. Ralph



AUGUST 2017 LUNCH – The St. Francis Lunch Bunch will meet on Wednesday, August 2, 12:00 Noon at The Greene Turtle, 18101 town Center Drive, Olney MD 20832 (301) 570-0343. If you are planning to attend, please contact Mary Lou Habib, (301) 417-0243, she will reserve a seat for you.

The Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

QUESTION OF THE WEEK

In a world divided by economics and education, social status and political opinion, race and religion, what can I do this week to bring people together?

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., August 4, followed by adoration until 9:00 p.m. in the Church.

RCIA . . . An Invitation

An invitation is extended to any adult who would like to become a member of the Catholic Church to consider following the process of inquiry, instruction and formation called RCIA or Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults. Joining this course of inquiry does not mean that participants are ready to commit themselves to joining the Catholic Church, but only that they are interested. RCIA will begin in mid-September. For more information or if you would like to suggest someone to be invited personally, please, call or e-mail Terry Davis (301-774-0783, davistj23@gmail.com) or Sara Dean (301-977-6373, e-mail sgdean129@gmail.com). There is no obligation, just information.

THE MUSINGS OF THE PASTOR (continued)

Shelter the homeless (continued)

- There are millions of children and families on the move, fleeing from war, illness, hunger and impossible living conditions, and search for peace and safety. Engage parish groups of children, youth, young adults, and families in doing some research on the causes and challenges that these families face to survive. Contact Catholic Charities for the Archdiocese of Washington for help with your research locally or Catholic Relief Services for help with your research globally. Seek ways to provide shelter for the homeless locally, regionally, nationally, or internationally.

We'll continue this discussion next week. In the meantime, here is the link to the USCCB website for those who wish to explore this further: <http://www.usccb.org/beliefs-and-teachings/how-we-teach/new-evangelization/jubilee-of-mercy/the-corporal-works-of-mercy.cfm>.

Until next week,

Fr. John Dillon

THE MUSINGS OF THE PASTOR

We regularly feature a question of the week in the bulletin. The question for this week is this: *In a world divided by economics and education, social status and political opinions, race and religion, what can I do this week to bring people together?* An answer that I want to propose today for all of us is to be attentive to practicing the works of mercy. Here are some suggestions for practicing them from the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB).

Feed the hungry

There are many people in this world who go without food. When so much of our food goes to waste, consider how good stewardship practices of your own food habits can benefit others who do not have those same resources.

- Having delicious food at Thanksgiving or Christmas dinner? Donate to a Thanksgiving or Christmas food drive so everyone can have something to eat.
- Research, identify, and contribute financially to organizations that serve the hungry.
- The next time that you make a recipe that can be easily frozen, make a double batch and donate one to your local food pantry or soup kitchen.
- Try not to purchase more food than you are able to eat. If you notice that you end up throwing groceries away each week, purchasing less groceries would eliminate waste and allow you to donate the savings to those in need.

Give drink to the thirsty

Many of our brothers and sisters in Christ do not have access to clean water and suffer from the lack of this basic necessity. We should support the efforts of those working towards greater accessibility of this essential resource.

- We take it for granted that we have access to clean water. Donate to organizations like Catholic Relief Services to help build wells for water for those in need.
- Organize a group of children involved on a sports team (e.g. soccer) or a summer camp. Invite them to collect bottled water to distribute at a shelter for families. If parents can be involved, ask them to accompany their children in delivering the water to the families.
- Do the same for youth and young adult groups.
- Make an effort not to waste water. Remembering to turn off the water faucet when you are brushing your teeth, or washing the dishes can help, especially in regions suffering from drought

Shelter the homeless

There are many circumstances that could lead to someone becoming a person without a home. Christ encourages us to go out and meet those without homes, affirming their worth and helping them seek a resolution to the challenges that they face.

- See if your parish or diocese is involved with a local homeless shelter and volunteer some time.
- Donate time or money to organizations that build homes for those who need shelter.
- Many homeless shelters need warm blankets for their beds. If you can knit or sew that would be an extra loving gift.

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

LAMB OF GOD PRAYER MEETING Join the Lamb of God Prayer Group for worship and the study of Scripture on Tuesday, August 1, 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.

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.

MINISTRY SPOTLIGHT: CHRISTLIFE SERIES

(continued)

Ministry Overview:

Volunteer roles: Coordinator, small group facilitators, assistant facilitators, praise and worship leaders, cooks, kitchen helpers, greeters.

Monthly time commitment: Varies

Required training/pre-requisites: Volunteers should have completed a past ChristLife course; Desire to live a life transformed by the Holy Spirit.

Benefits: Transformation by the Holy Spirit; Engage with a small group community that encourages and supports your personal relationship with Christ

Contact: Coordinator Medy DeAusen,
SFADCHRIST@COMCAST.NET

MINISTRY SPOTLIGHT: CHRISTLIFE SERIES (Discovering Christ, Following Christ, Sharing Christ)

One Soul at a Time

The ChristLife Series is an adult faith formation experience that enables its participants to be renewed, empowered and transformed by the Holy Spirit. Set up as three courses within an overarching evangelization process, the courses help each participant renew their relationship with or encounter Christ; learn to live a life of a Catholic disciple; and learn how to share a renewed relationship with Christ with others. Each course consists of seven sessions and a retreat, taking place over a seven-week period.

The foundational program -- *Discovering Christ* -- focuses on encountering Christ, designed to help participants enter into a personal relationship with Christ and experience the power of His love. Each session follows the following format:

- *Dinner*, where participants can get to know one another in a casual and welcoming environment.
- *Prayer and worship*, where participants express their love for Jesus and one another in community prayer, praise and singing.
- *DVD teaching*, where participants watch a video of the session's theme.
- *Small group discussion*, where participants get to know one another in groups of six to eight people, discuss the lessons of the teachings and the implications in their lives.

Following Christ and Sharing Christ follow a similar small group-focused format, with the exception of dessert offered instead of dinner. In *Following Christ*, participants begin a journey toward Catholic discipleship designed to help them grow in their relationship with Christ. In *Sharing Christ*, participants will learn how to share their relationship with Christ with others in their daily lives.

The courses are intended to build on one another, and coordinators encourage participants to take all three courses at their own pace. Parishioners can start with *Discovering Christ* and keep an open mind to completing the other courses in the future.

Medy DeAusen, the coordinator of the ChristLife Series at St. Francis, said it's difficult to describe how participants benefit from the series, because each person's experience is different. "It's not a typical training program," she said. "It's the work of the Holy Spirit. You're allowing the Holy Spirit to work on you."

The goal of the program is to have graduates of previous courses serve as leaders in upcoming offerings. They may start as assistant small group facilitators and, later, take on a facilitator role. After any of the three courses is completed – regardless of whether a participant chooses to take the next one or has completed the series – they are invited to take part in a monthly meeting called a Family Assembly, during which participants from the ChristLife series and Couples for Christ ministry gather for dinner, praise and worship, communal prayer, and teaching.

The next session of *Discovering Christ* will begin September 28 at Mother of God Church in Gaithersburg. Young parents are encouraged to register, as childcare will be offered on-site. Please e-mail Medy DeAusen at SFADCHRIST@COMCAST.NET, if you are interested in registering.

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

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS/EVENTS

REGISTRATION FOR 2017-2018

Please help us prepare well for this year's Religious Education classes by returning your registration form as soon as possible. Even if not completely certain about which RE session will best match your family's schedule, please return a registration form now, marking your best guess for session time with a note that this is subject to change.

Registration forms are 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 mailed, 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 and children must be registered before they can begin classes. A calendar for 2017-18 is available now on the parish website. Paper copies will be mailed in early September to all who have registered. **Classes are scheduled to begin on September 17, 18, and 19!**

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.

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.

CATECHISTS NEEDED

Please consider whether you can serve as a catechist for our children and young people. Additional catechists are always welcome and much needed, especially for our Monday and Tuesday evening middle school program. If you would like to learn more about this important ministry, please contact Susan Anderson, Director of Religious Education, at 301-258-9193.

YOUTH MINISTRY NEWS/EVENTS

ST. FRANCIS YOUTH MINISTRY

Upcoming Events

FRED

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

MONTGOMERY COUNTY FAIR PASSES

Thank you to all those who have signed up!

Passes will be handed out after the following Masses: **Saturday 5:00, Sunday 8:00, 9:30, 11:15 & 5:00** the weekend of August 5/6. If you will not be at one of the Masses that weekend, you can pick-up your passes in the Parish Office beginning Monday, August 7.

An alphabetical listing of volunteers is posted in the Gathering Space this weekend.

Thank you again, we couldn't do this without your support!

WHAT IS THAT POLE IN THE POLLINATOR GARDEN?

In October 2014, the Pax Christi Ministry gave a Peace Pole to the parish, which stands in the Pollinator Garden to the left of the main church doors as you enter. Depicted on the pole are the words, "May Peace Prevail on Earth," in the following eight languages, reflecting the diversity of our parish community: English, Spanish, Creole, French, Arabic, Chinese, Russian and Italian.

As the parish community celebrates the Feast of the Transfiguration on Sunday, August 6, it will also solemnly commemorate the dropping the atomic bomb on Hiroshima, Japan, 72 years ago, on August 6, 1945. We pray that the glory of our Lord's Transfiguration may transform us to pray and work for peace in our hearts, homes and world.

After Mass on the weekend of August 5 and 6, the Pax Christi Ministry invites parishioners to visit the Peace Pole. A member of the ministry will hand out a pocket-sized peace prayer/poem for parishioners to reflect on during the week. For more information about the Pax Christi Ministry and the Peace Pole,

NEW NEIGHBOR TO NEIGHBOR INITIATIVE NEEDS YOUR HELP

In the readings this week, Jesus says the kingdom of heaven is like a treasure, like an expensive pearl. We are all called to “go make disciples” and invite people to join us growing a community that preaches the Gospel at all times through our worship, our words and our actions.

We have all seen the new homes and condominiums around Magruder High School and the Shady Grove Metro Station. In addition, neighborhoods that were new when St. Francis of Assisi was founded in 1972 are now “turning over” and young families are moving into the parish area.

Fr. John has initiated a Neighbor to Neighbor Team to help strategize and plan how we can best reach out to these new neighbors. This will be a highly strategic ministry, as its members will be asked to think deeply about the various audiences we intend to engage and form an understanding of what could motivate them to join our parish or participate more.

We are specifically looking to recruit parish members with experience in:

- Advertising / marketing
- Event planning
- Public relations
- Communications strategy
- Similar outreaches to new neighbors or new members

Please contact Deacon Dan Finn at deacondanfinn@gmail.com to express your interest in joining this team, call him at (240) 393-8180 or sign up at the Information Desk.

CANDIDATES FOR THE PASTORAL COUNCIL STILL BEING SOUGHT

A number of St. Francis of Assisi parishioners have stepped forward to express interest in running for the Pastoral Council this fall, but several more candidates are desired for the seven vacancies opening January 1. If you are at least 16 years of age, would be able to commit to attend monthly meetings for 10 months of the year and can start serving a three-year term beginning January 1, 2018, then you are eligible to run for the Pastoral Council.

The volunteer body that provides advice to Fr. John is especially interested in having older teens and people in their 20s and 30s run for the council, so that it's representative of the many young people in the parish. For more information, please contact Pastoral Council Co-Chairmen Alicia Church at alicia.church@collaborationcouncil.org or Miguel Welanetz at welawhat@msn.com.

YOUR OFFERTORY CONTRIBUTION

Just a reminder that we do not record loose checks from the weekly collection. In order for us to track your contribution and send you a statement at the end of the year, it is suggested that you sign up for envelopes or Faith Direct. To sign up for envelopes you can call the Parish Office, (301) 840-1407. To sign up for electronic contributions visit www.faithdirect.net. The code for St. Francis is MD110. If you have any questions, please call the Parish Office.

RESPONSE FROM USCCB ON OUR LETTER & SIGNATURES OF THANKS AND SUPPORT

On the weekend of July 1-2, we collected signatures in the gathering space thanking our Bishops and supporting them in their statement that the budget is a moral document. In their May 19th letter to Congress, they stressed that the budget should promote the common good of all, especially the most vulnerable whose voices are often missing from these debates.

We sent 20 pages of signatures to the US Conference of Catholic Bishops and received an enthusiastic acknowledgement. Our effort has been shared among the staff of USCCB, Department of Justice, Peace and Human Development, and we have been approached about creating a faith-in-action story on their website.

Thank you to all who participated in this effort. If you would like more information and/or a copy of the USCCB Letter to Congress, please contact Marie Barry at (301) 926-2530 or e-mail her at MarieBarryDC@aol.com.

CATHOLIC CAMPAIGN FOR HUMAN DEVELOPMENT

Next week is the collection for the Catholic Campaign for Human Development. Over 46 million people in the United States live in poverty. This collection supports programs to empower people to identify and address the obstacles they face as they work to lift themselves out of poverty. By supporting this collection you give people a hand up, not a hand out. You can learn more about the Catholic Campaign for Human Development by visiting their website: www.usccb.org/cchd/collection.

UNBOUND: FREEDOM IN CHRIST CONFERENCE August 11-12

**Mother of God Community
20501 Goshen Road,
Gaithersburg**

Do you feel stuck, unable to forgive, heal or move forward? Come to the Unbound Conference and receive the healing and freedom that Jesus longs for you. Unbound is an internationally renowned ministry that has touched many lives. It is used by Baltimore, Arlington and Washington Dioceses. We are fortunate to have Neal and Janet Lozano, founders of Unbound Ministries, presenting a sound and practical way for Christians to experience a greater freedom from the influence of sin & evil in their lives and to enjoy a greater fullness of life won for us by Christ's death and resurrection. For information go to www.UnboundADW.org or call 301-799-5519.

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.