

ST FRANCIS OF ASSISI, DERWOOD

Mass Intentions

August 14 - August 20

Monday, 8/14	9:00 a.m. Don Smith
Tuesday, 8/15	9:00 a.m. <i>Pro populo</i>
(Holy Day)	12:00 p.m. Elizabeth Yeast
	7:30 p.m. Benicio Huaman
Wednesday, 8/16	9:00 a.m. Felicidad & Anselmo Santos
	7:30 p.m. Donna Cahill
Thursday, 8/17	9:00 a.m. Ron Carpenter
Friday, 8/18	9:00 a.m. Marie Galvin
Saturday, 8/19	9:00 a.m. Catherine Dillon Bullen
	5:00 p.m. Marie & James Galvin
Sunday, 8/20	8:00 a.m. Catherine Dillon Bullen
	9:30 a.m. Joseph G. Cardiff
	11:15 a.m. Ann Breece
	5:00 p.m. <i>Pro populo</i>

+ In Memoriam Aeternam +

In your charity, please pray for the repose of the soul of Rita Arias, mother of Victor & Cesar Arias.

Please pray for the sick... Tom Krafchik, Esther Torres, 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 August 13, 2017

Sunday:	1 Kgs 19:9, 11-13/Ps 85:9-14/Rom 9:1-5/ Mt 14:22-33
Monday:	Dt 10:12-22/Ps 147:12-15, 19-20/Mt 17:22-27
Tuesday:	Rv 11:19; 12:1-6, 10/Ps 45:10-12, 16/1 Cor 15:20-27/Lk 1:39-56
Wednesday:	Dt 34:1-12/Ps 66:1-3, 5, 8, 16-17/Mt 18:15-20
Thursday:	Jos 3:7-10, 11, 13-17/Ps 114:1-6/ Mt 18:21--19:1
Friday:	Jos 24:1-13/Ps 136:1-3, 16-18, 21-22, 24/ Mt 19:3-12
Saturday:	Jos 24:14-29/Ps 16:1-2a, 5, 7-8, 11/ Mt 19:13-15
Next Sunday:	Is 56:1, 6-7/Ps 67:2-3, 5-6, 8/Rom 11:13-15, 29-32/Mt 15:21-28

Scripture Corner

THE SON OF GOD

Today's Gospel (Matthew 14:22-33) gives strong testimony to the wonderful love of God for every person. Mathew teaches clearly the fact that Jesus the Messiah is also the Son of God.

His followers were afraid since their boat "was being tossed about by the waves." (Matthew 14:24) Our Lord says to his followers, "It is I; do not be afraid." (Matthew 14:27) "IT IS I" is the name of God. When Moses was commissioned by God to assume the leadership of his people, he said to Yahweh, "If they ask me what is your name, what do I tell them?" (Exodus 3:13) Then God told Moses, "this is what you will tell the Israelites, 'I AM has sent me to you.'" (Exodus 3:14) I AM is the divine name, a translation of the Hebrew Yahweh. When Christ says, "it is I; do not be afraid." (Matthew 14:27), Christ is using the divine name I AM, as told to Moses by his Father. At the end of today's episode his followers "did him homage, saying, 'Truly, you are the Son of God.'" (Matthew 14:33)

Today's gospel also makes clear that the Son of God will be a loving redeemer. When the disciples saw Jesus walking on the water, "they were terrified." (Matthew 14:26) The compassionate Christ says to them, "Take courage, it is I; do not be afraid." (Matthew 14:27) In similar words of comfort our Lord says later in the gospel of Matthew, "Behold, I am with you always, until the end of the age." (Matthew 28:20)

This continuing presence of Jesus is seen especially in the Eucharist. As each one of us receives our Lord in communion, we should hear him assuring all by saying to everyone, "Take courage, it is I; do not be afraid." (Matthew 14:27)

It is good to remember that Jesus has patience with persons "of little faith." (Matthew 14:31) None of us is perfect, but it is comforting to keep in mind that God is always willing to forgive, as he did so kindly with his followers, including Saint Peter!

Fr. Ralph

The Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

QUESTION OF THE WEEK

When was the last time I experienced God as really absent from my life? Really present? To whom am I called to be Jesus' outstretched hand of strength and support?

FEAST OF THE ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

Holy Day of Obligation

Tuesday, August 15

Mass Times:

9:00 a.m.

12:00 Noon

7:30 p.m.

Parish Offices will also be closed for the Holy Day.

THE MUSINGS OF THE PASTOR (continued)

Education (continued) When Juan Diego was in the presence of the Virgin, he wondered whether he was in paradise. With her coming, the mountains were filled with songs like wonderful birds. Flowers bloomed in the winter season in soil where there were only stones and cactus and thorns. In our teaching, then, we need to help people see that our lives are connected, part of the beautiful mystery of God's plan of creation.

Life. The Virgin of Guadalupe appeared as an icon of new life—as a woman carrying a child. Guadalupe is a vision of the world as God wants it to be. The “shrine” that Our Lady wants us to build in the Americas is a new civilization—a culture that celebrates and welcomes life. The Christian faith in this new world confronted the brutality of Aztec human sacrifice. The saints and missionaries of the Americas proclaimed that every life is precious and an image of the living God. We need to continue that mission. As we can see every day in our society, life has become “cheap” and easily discarded. We see this in the crisis of homelessness, in the lives wasted by addiction. We see it in the spread to push euthanasia and in the continuing tragedy of abortion. The saints of the Americas teach us to go to the peripheries and margins of our society—to care for those who have no one to care for them. They teach us to meet “others”—as brothers and sisters—and to serve them from the heart at a personal sacrifice. We need to help people today to see the face of Christ in those who are sick and suffering.

Until next week,

Fr. John

THE MUSINGS OF THE PASTOR

We will celebrate the Solemnity of the Assumption on Tuesday of this week. I saw a report of a talk that Archbishop José Gomez of Los Angeles recently gave at the Napa Institute. His remarks are very timely as we prepare to gather for Mass on the Solemnity of the Assumption.

Early in his talk Archbishop Gomez notes that there is no question that our institutions and national self-identity were meant to be shaped by a vision of the values of the Gospel. The promise of America—what distinguishes this country from all the rest—is our commitment to promoting human dignity and freedom under the Creator. At the heart, this is a Christian commitment.

But these things are changing now. We face aggressive and organized agendas by elite groups who want to eliminate the influence of Christianity from our society. Our beliefs are now labeled as a kind of hatred or intolerance. Our Church institutions face lawsuits—the “crime” of still believing what Jesus taught. The “crime” of not wanting to cooperate with practices we find immoral or dehumanizing.

Archbishop Gomez went on to give a spiritual interpretation of the Guadalupe story in light of the present situation in our country. He sees the story of Guadalupe points to five themes: **vocation, education, life, culture, and family**. He believes that if we look at these themes, they give us a strategy for Christian living and carrying out the Church's mission in this post-Christian culture. Let's look briefly at three of these five themes for the remainder of this column. We'll look at the other two themes next week.

Vocation. Our Lady entrusted St. Juan Diego with a task—to build a shrine in her name “to show, praise, and testify to God.” When he first met the Mother of God, St. Juan Diego protested that he was neither strong enough nor holy enough to do what she was asking of him. In return Our Lady told St. Juan the following: “Understand that I have many servants and messengers who I could send to deliver my message and to do my will. But it is absolutely necessary that you yourself go.” Archbishop Gomez believes that God is speaking these words to us at this time. God has a message that he wants each of us to deliver with our lives. We need to rediscover the truth that each of us has a vocation to be holy, to be saints. Holiness does not mean separation from the world. Holiness means transforming the world—living totally for the love of God and sanctifying the world by our love and service.

Education. The second lesson of the Guadalupe story is that we need to teach the knowledge and love of Jesus. When St. Juan Diego met Mary, he was on his way to church. Every Saturday and Sunday he would get up before dawn and walk nine miles from his home so that he could go to Mass and then go to classes to keep deepening his knowledge of the Catholic faith. As far as Juan Diego was concerned, Jesus Christ had come into his life and there was nothing more beautiful than to know Jesus. This is a message for the Church in our times. We need to renew in our times the Catholic imagination and our sacramental vision. We need to push back against the scientific and materialistic vision of our age. We live in a culture that tells us that there is no reality that “transcends” what we can see and hear and taste and touch. This is a world without the possibility of God.

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

August 13, 2017

LAMB OF GOD PRAYER MEETING The Lamb of God Prayer will **NOT** meet on Tuesday, August 15th. For details, please call Louise, (301) 977-5217.

POOR BOX DONATION – The donations for next weekend will go to UMAN (Upper Montgomery Assistance Network). *Thank you for your generosity.*

ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI PRAYER CHAIN If you have a prayer request, please contact Marianne Bullen, (301) 963-3420 or mariannebu@comcast.net with your requests.

ROSARY FOR PRIESTS

Every Wednesday evening at 6:45 p.m. we pray the rosary for our priests before the 7:30 p.m. Mass.

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.

RCIA

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults

Is For:

- Those desiring to become Catholic
- Adult Catholics seeking Confirmation
- Non-Catholics wanting information about the Catholic faith

The Rite of Christian Initiation or RCIA may be for you. Classes meet on Wednesday nights and will begin in mid-September, but now is the time to get information.

For more information, we invite you to call or e-mail Terry Davis (301-774-0783, e-mail davistj23@gmail.com) or Sara Dean (301-977-6373, e-mail sgdean129@gmail.com). There is no obligation, just information.

THANK YOU TO ST. FRANCIS PARISHIONERS FOR GENEROUS FOOD DONATIONS

Thank you to all the parishioners who donated to the Summer in the City food drive held July 22-23 at St. Francis and to those who helped load the truck. The Mulholland Family Foundation, which organized the collection at the 27 archdiocesan parishes which participated this year, thanks St. Francis parishioners for helping to make the drive highly successful. Food donations went to 700 families in four inner city parishes -- St. Thomas More, St. Luke, St Francis Xavier and Holy Name of Jesus -- that rely on this supplemental food assistance. Your generosity is greatly appreciated.

STEP OUT IN FAITH & CONSIDER SERVING WITH THE ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY

Do you sense a call to live out your faith through directly helping the poor and needy? It is a life-transforming experience, challenging, but filled with rewards and blessings. Pope Francis writes that "The universe unfolds in God, who fills it completely. Hence, there is a mystical meaning to be found in . . . a poor person's face" (*Laudato Si*, para 233). The St. Vincent de Paul Society is a Catholic lay organization that serves Christ through serving those living in poverty or facing other critical needs. In the past month, the St. Francis chapter has assisted two people with rent-related needs to help prevent eviction. Come learn more to see if you are called to this ministry. The next meeting is at 7 p.m. Thursday, August 17, in the Assisi Room. For more information, contact Social Concerns Minister Tony Bosnick at (301) 840-1407, Ext. 11.

PARISHIONERS WITH COMMUNICATIONS, EVENT PLANNING EXPERIENCE NEEDED FOR NEIGHBOR-TO-NEIGHBOR TEAM

Today, Jesus calls Peter to step out of the boat and walk on water. St. Francis of Assisi Parish needs you to take a step out of your boat of comfort and join the Neighbor to Neighbor team.

As new homes and condominiums sprout up around Magruder High School and the Shady Grove Metro Station, older neighborhoods around St. Francis of Assisi Church are now "turning over," welcoming new families that are moving into the 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 about the various audiences we intend to engage and learn what might motivate them to join our parish or participate more.

We are hoping to recruit parish members with experience in:

- Advertising / marketing,
- Event planning,
- Public relations,
- Communications strategy,
- A similar outreach to new neighbors or new members of an organization.

Orientation and training will be available before we ask the team to help develop strategies to engage new neighbors and invite them to join us at St. Francis of Assisi. Please let Deacon Dan Finn know of your interest by calling him at (240) 393-8180 or e-mailing deacondanfinn@gmail.com. You can also sign up for the team at the Information Desk.

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

- 13 FRED Summer Nights
- 21-25 Middle School Service Camp
- 26 Faith Night at the Nats Game
- 27 FRED Summer Nights

GET SOCIAL

"FRED - SFA Youth Ministry" Page on Facebook
"St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church" page on Facebook

CATHOLIC CAMPAIGN FOR HUMAN DEVELOPMENT

Thank you for your generous support last week to the collection for the Catholic Campaign for Human Development! Your generosity will help support those on the margins of living in poverty. If you missed the collection, it's not too late to give! Visit the website www.usccb.org/nationalcollections and click "How to Give" on the left.

SAVE THE DATE
ST. FRANCIS ANNUAL HOLIDAY BAZAAR
& FLEA MARKET
Saturday, November 11

HOLIDAY BAZAAR CRAFTERS

We will begin making crafts for the 2017 Holiday Bazaar on Wednesday September 13 at 7:00 p.m. in the Parish Center. If you enjoy being creative and socializing with fellow parishioners, please plan on attending. Also, projects can be taken home to work on. For additional information, please call the Parish Office, (301) 840-1407.

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.

FAITH DIRECT

Thank you for being a part of our St. Francis of Assisi family. As you prepare for the end of summer and the start of a busy fall, consider enrolling in eGiving through Faith Direct so that your gift can reach us even when you cannot. Visit www.faithdirect.net and use our church code: **MD110**. Thank you for your continued support of our parish family!
~ Fr. John

AUGUST @ ST. FRANCIS

13	FRED Summer Nights (YR)	6:00 pm
14	PAX Christi Mtg (YR)	7:30 pm
15	Feast of the Assumption Mass	9:00 am
		12:00 Noon
		7:30 pm
17	Alanon (Lib)	7:00 pm
18	CL (AR)	8:00 pm
21-25	Middle School Service Camp (SFA)	
23	Martha & Mary Women's Group (YR)	7:30 pm
24	St. Vincent de Paul Mtg (AR)	7:00 pm
	Alanon (Lib)	7:00 pm
25	CL (AR)	8:00 pm
26	Faith Nights @ Nationals Park	
27	Religious Ed Registration after all Masses	
	FRED Summer Nights (YR)	6:00 pm
31	Alanon (Lib)	7:00 pm

BANQUET WITH ENTERTAINMENT AT NEW FORTUNE RESTAURANT BENEFITS HAITI MEDICAL MISSION

Please join us for a banquet featuring entertainment benefiting the St. Francis of Assisi Haiti Medical Missions from 6:30-10:30 p.m. Friday, September 22, at New Fortune Restaurant in Gaithersburg. This banquet, organized in partnership by St. Francis of Assisi Church, Health and Education for Haiti, Inc., University of Maryland Eastern Shore School of Pharmacy and Health Professions, and International Community Initiatives, Inc., will feature a multi-course dinner, silent auction, karaoke, dance performances and a raffle. Tickets are \$35 in advance or \$40 at the door of New Fortune Restaurant, located at 16515 S. Frederick Ave. in Gaithersburg. Join us for a great cause and a wonderful night of fun! For more information, contact Hoai-an Truong at htruong@umes.edu or at [240-401-4284](tel:240-401-4284).

WOULD YOU LIKE TO KEEP UP WITH HOW YOUR TWO U.S. SENATORS & REPRESENTATIVES VOTE?

Track their votes by email with MegaVote. Each week that Congress is in session, you receive: **1) key votes** of your Senators and Representative; **2) links to send e-mail** to your members of Congress using pre-addressed forms; **3) upcoming votes for your review** and a chance to offer e-mail input before they vote. Register here: <http://congress.org/>

WORLDWIDE MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER

"After the fire there was a tiny whispering sound. When he heard this, Elijah hid his face in his cloak and went and stood at the entrance of the cave." Help each other hear God's plan for our marriage better by participating in a Worldwide Marriage Encounter weekend. The next weekend is on October 27-29, 2017 in Gaithersburg, MD. For more information and to apply online visit welovematrimony.org, or call 301-541-7007, or email at applications@welovematrimony.org.

SFA HEALTH MINISTRY

Encouraging health and wellbeing of body, mind and soul

AUGUST IS NATIONAL IMMUNIZATION MONTH VACCINATIONS AREN'T JUST FOR CHILDREN

Most people are aware that children should receive vaccinations to prevent certain diseases, such as pertussis, mumps and measles, from spreading. Yet, adults should also keep their vaccinations up to date, because immunity from childhood vaccinations can wear off over time. Adults are also at risk for different diseases. At minimum, all adults need a Tdap vaccine and the yearly influenza vaccine. Adults may need other vaccines based on their age, health condition, job, lifestyle or travel habits.

Remember that vaccination is one of the best ways parents can protect infants, children, teens, *and* themselves from 16 potentially harmful diseases.

For more information about vaccines, browse <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines> or talk to your healthcare professional about which vaccines are right for you.

THERE IS NO CARE OR DIGNITY IN PHYSICIAN ASSISTED SUICIDE

Legislation legalizing Physician Assisted Suicide is coming again in the 2018 MD legislative session. If you are a healthcare professional of any kind and are concerned about the dangers of legalizing physician assisted suicide, Maryland Against Physician Assisted Suicide is seeking your help educating the public in opposing this legislation. Visit their website and sign up to join the many medical, behavioral, hospice and other healthcare providers in Maryland who are standing against PAS. Visit: <http://stopassistedsuicidemd.org/join-healthcare-coalition/>

SUBSTITUTE TEACHERS NEEDED

Mother of God School, a vibrant private Catholic school located in Gaithersburg, MD, is in need of substitute teachers for Grades PreK – 8. For further information, please contact Alice Garvey at agarvey@mogschool.com or call 301-990-2088 ext. 11.

REDISCOVER YOUR MARRIAGE

Retrouvaille (pronounced retro-vi with a long i) simply means 'rediscovery'. The program offers the chance to rediscover yourself, your spouse, and a loving relationship in your marriage. 10's of 1000's headed for divorce have successfully saved their marriages by attending. Retrouvaille is a not spiritual retreat, not a sensitivity group, not a seminar, not a social gathering. For confidential information about or to register for the September program beginning with a weekend on September 15-17, 2017 call (443) 400-7017, or email: 3015@retrouvaille.org or visit the web site at www.HelpOurMarriage.com

SUMMER VACATION MASS TIMES

While traveling this summer, don't forget to visit www.masstimes.org for Mass times and locations across the country.