

ST FRANCIS OF ASSISI, DERWOOD

Mass Intentions

August 28 - September 3

Monday, 8/28	9:00 a.m. Catherine Dillon Bullen
Tuesday, 8/29	9:00 a.m. Natividad D. Roxas
Wednesday, 8/30	9:00 a.m. Gilbert Reising
	7:30 p.m. Francine Kasende (L)
Thursday, 8/31	9:00 a.m. Alan Florenzo
Friday, 9/1	9:00 a.m. Barbara Lynn Beall
	7:30 p.m. Kathy Denchfield (L)
Saturday, 9/2	9:00 a.m. Mark Harang (L)
	5:00 p.m. Erlinda Quemuel
Sunday, 9/3	8:00 a.m. Elsie Mastronardi
	9:30 a.m. <i>Pro populo</i>
	11:15 a.m. Frank Anthony Chite
	5:00 p.m. Mary Boyd (L)

+ In Memoriam Aeternam +

In your charity, please pray for the repose of the soul of .Frances Seibert, sister of Joanna Dudek.

Please pray for the sick....Millie Cosman, Madelyn Cabatic, Tom Krafchik, Esther Torres, Evelyn Haddad, Carolyn Speaks, Bart Trickett, Katrina Schmidt, Bienvenido Delrosario, 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 27, 2017

Sunday:	Is 22:19-23/Ps 138:1-3, 6, 8/Rom 11:33-36/ Mt 16:13-20
Monday:	1 Thes 1:1-5, 8-10/Ps 149:1b-6, 9/Mt 23:13-22
Tuesday:	1 Thes 2:1-8/Ps 139:1-6/Mk 6:17-29
Wednesday:	1 Thes 2:9-13/Ps 139:7-12ab/Mt 23:27-32
Thursday:	1 Thes 3:7-13/Ps 90:3-5, 12-14, 17/ Mt 24:42-51
Friday:	1 Thes 4:1-8/Ps 97:1, 2, 5-6, 10-12/Mt 25:1-13
Saturday:	1 Thes 4:9-11/Ps 98:1, 7-9/Mt 25:14-30
Next Sunday:	Jer 20:7-9/Ps 63:2-6, 8-9/Rom 12:1-2/ Mt 16:21-27

Scripture Corner

THE MESSIAH AND PETER

In today's Gospel (Matthew 16:13-20) Jesus asks his disciples, "Who do you say that I am?" (Matthew 16:15) Simon answers for these followers of our Lord, as he often does. He professes faith in Jesus as the Messiah. Messiah (Aramaic), Christ (Greek), and Anointed One all have the same meaning. The Hebrew people had long been expecting the Messiah, with the belief that he would be a powerful person, able to free them from the domination of Rome.

Jesus blesses Simon, son of Jonah. "Blessed are you, Simon, son of Jonah, for flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my heavenly Father." (Matthew 16:17) Our Lord then changes the name of Simon, "I say to you, you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church." (Matthew 16:18) In Aramaic the text would be "you are Rock and upon this rock I will build my church." God himself was called Rock in the Old Testament. "O lord, my rock, my fortress, my deliverer, my refuge." (2 Samuel 22:2)

As God is the power of support for the people of the Old Testament, Peter will be the source of strength, the Rock, for the followers of Jesus. Our Lord assured Peter that "the gates of the netherworld," symbolizing the power of the death and the forces of evil, will not prevail against his Church. There was one problem with the faith of Peter and the other disciples as they were expecting a triumphant Messiah who would free them from Rome. In the next section of Matthew Jesus warns that he will be a suffering Messiah, When Peter refuses to hear that, Jesus rebukes him. "Get behind me, Satan! You are thinking not as God does, but as human beings do." (Matthew 16:23)

Fr. Ralph

The Twenty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time

QUESTION OF THE WEEK

How does Peter's continuing presence in the Church through the ministry of Pope Francis impact my life of witness?

ARE YOU MISSING SOMETHING/

Perhaps for some reason, you were not able to complete your Sacraments of Initiation, which consist of Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist. Have you been attending Mass with your Catholic spouse or fiancé? Would you like to know more about the Catholic faith?

The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults or RCIA may be for you. Classes will begin meeting 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.

There will also be an Information Night on Wednesday, August 30th at 7:30 p.m. in the Gathering Space, for those who would like additional information. Please sign-up at the Information Desk if you would like to attend.



SEPTEMBER 2017 LUNCH – The St. Francis Lunch Bunch will meet on Wednesday, September 6, 12:00 Noon at the Fontina Grill, King Farm Village Center, 801 Pleasant Drive, Rockville (301) 947-5400. If you are planning to attend, please contact Mary Lou Habib and she will save a seat for you, (301) 417-0243.

THE MUSINGS OF THE PASTOR (continued)

Let's ask these two saints to pray for us in these times when racism, white supremacy, and new-nazism are reemerging in our time.

Finally, I think Cardinal Wuerl gives us some good advice on how we move forward after these terrible events in Charlottesville in his blogpost of August 13, 2017:

At this time, as Christians, as disciples of Jesus, we must redouble our efforts to bear a witness for peace and the common good. As people of good will and faith in God, in solidarity with the victims of hate and violence, let us stand together in prayer and work for healing and unity in our country.

Until next week,
Fr. John Dillon

THE MUSINGS OF THE PASTOR

On August 12, 2017, a young man from Ohio slammed his car into a crowd of protestors and onlookers at Charlottesville, VA. A young woman died and many more people suffered serious injuries. On the same day two state troopers were killed when their helicopter accidentally crashed while assisting in law enforcement efforts. I think Archbishop Charles Chaput of Philadelphia captured well what we experienced in Charlottesville. Let's look at what he said in a recent statement:

Racism is a poison of the soul. It's the ugly, original sin of our country, an illness that has never fully healed. Blending it with the Nazi salute, the relic of a regime that murdered millions, compounds the obscenity. We especially need to pray for those injured in the violence.

Cardinal Daniel DiNardo of Galveston-Houston, President of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops and Bishop Frank Dewane of Venice, Florida also called people of goodwill to join in prayer in response to the violent protest and deadly attack. They also spoke frankly about the cause of the violence that wreaked havoc on Charlottesville:

We stand against the evil of racism, white supremacy, and neo-nazism. We stand with our sisters and brothers united in the sacrifice of Jesus, by which love's victory over every form of evil is assured. At Mass, let us offer a special prayer of gratitude for the brave souls who sought to protect us from the violent ideology displayed yesterday [August 12]. Let us especially remember those who lost their lives. Let us join their witness and stand against every form of oppression.

I think that we would should remember the life and example of two saints whose work was the opposed racist attitudes of their time. St. Peter Claver (1581-1654), a member of the Society of Jesus (Jesuits), left his native land (Spain) in 1610 to be a missionary in the New World. He arrived in Cartagena (now Colombia), which was a chief center of the slave trade in South America. For forty years he exercised his pastoral care among the slaves. The city magistrates considered him to be a nuisance because of his solicitude for the black outcasts. In time he became known as the apostle of Cartagena. He preached in the city square, gave missions to sailors and traders as well as country missions. When he would give missions in the country side, he would avoid the hospitality of the planters and owners and would lodge in the slave quarters.

St. Katharine Drexel (1858-1955) and her community of Blessed Sacrament Sisters established a network of schools for Native American and African American children. By 1942, she had a system of black Catholic schools in 13 states, plus 40 mission centers and 23 rural schools. Segregationists harassed her work, even burning a school in Pennsylvania. When the state legislature in Louisiana refused to build and fund public schools for African American children, she built school buildings, paid for the education of public school teachers at Xavier University in New Orleans (which her community had founded as a Catholic college where African Americans could receive a college education), and then paid their salaries. All this she did through money that she had inherited from her father who had been a wealthy millionaire.

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

August 27, 2017

LAMB OF GOD PRAYER MEETING Join the Lamb of God Prayer Group for worship and the study of Scripture on Tuesday, August 29, 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.

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., September 1, followed by adoration until 9:00 p.m. in the Church.

MINISTRY MEETINGS & GATHERINGS

Joyful Greeters:

The Joyful Greeters Ministry will have a meeting and social from 7:00-9:00 p.m. Saturday, September 16, in the Gathering Space. All Joyful Greeters and those interested in joining the ministry are invited to attend. For more information, contact Ministry Coordinator Helen Hayes at helenlhayes@aol.com.

Scripture Study Class:

The Scripture Study Class will tackle the Letter to the Hebrews for its next session beginning Wednesday, September 6. The New Testament masterpiece is addressed to early Jewish Christians who let their early passions for Christ to waver. It is a masterful defense of the Christian faith and is regarded by many as the greatest Christian sermon ever preached. The class will meet from 7:30-9 p.m., Wednesdays from September 6-October 18 at the church, room to be determined. For more information, e-mail group leader Brent Hanson at bhanson123@comcast.net if you'll attend.

JOIN THE NEW NEIGHBOR-TO-NEIGHBOR TEAM

The new Neighbor-to-Neighbor Team is still recruiting members to help strategize and plan how St. Francis can reach out to people who have moved to the new communities around the Shady Grove Metro Station and Magruder High School, as well as those neighborhoods around St. Francis that are transitioning from empty nesters to young families. This will be a highly strategic ministry, as its members will be asked to think deeply about the various audiences we intend to reach out to and form an understanding of what could motivate them to join our parish or participate more.

Parish members with the following experience are highly encouraged to join:

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

If you are interested in joining the Neighbor-to-Neighbor Team, e-mail Deacon Dan Finn at deacondanfinn@gmail.com, call him at (240) 393-8180 or sign up at the Information Desk.

***Good Luck to all St. Francis Students.
Have a great year!***



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS/EVENTS

REGISTRATION FOR 2017-2018

So that we can be ready to welcome your child to class on the first day, it is important that we receive your registration by Wednesday, September 6!

Please help us prepare well for this year's Religious Education classes by returning your registration form as soon as possible. Even if you do not know which Religious Education session will best match your family's schedule, please return a registration form now, marking your best guess for session time with a note indicating 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. 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 will 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 meet Sunday evenings 6:00-8:00 p.m. (following the 5 pm Youth Mass)

If you have questions about this year's Religious Education program, or would like to register in person, please stop by the "Meet and Greet" table in the Gathering Space after Sunday Masses on August 27!

Registering for Sacramental Preparation

Sacramental preparation for Reconciliation, 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 this fall.

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

27 FRED Summer Nights

SEPTEMBER

10 FRED Family Night

17 FRED Kickoff

24 FRED

GET SOCIAL

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

MARTHA/MARY WOMEN'S GROUP

Just as Martha opened her home in service to Jesus and Mary sat at His feet to learn, our women's group opens the door to you to join us twice a month to learn and discuss how we, too, can move closer to Jesus. We meet at 7:30 p.m. every other Wednesday, in the Youth Room of the Rectory. We are currently reading the book, Open the Door: A Journey to the True Self by Sr. Joyce Rupp. It is a very casual women's group, and we always welcome newcomers. Our next 2 meetings: September 6 & 20. Questions: Email Linda Call at dcall94080@aol.com or Marie Yeast at Mffy313@aol.com

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/>

SAVE THE DATES

Sunday, October 8

*45th Anniversary Mass @ 11:15 a.m. with Bishop Barry Knestout
followed by our Parish Picnic and
Blessing of the Animals at 3:00 p.m..*

Saturday, November 11

Annual Holiday Bazaar & Flea Market

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.

AUGUST @ ST. FRANCIS

27	Religious Ed Registration after all Masses FRED Summer Nights (YR)	6:00 pm
31	Alanon (Lib)	7:00 pm

MEDICAL MISSION FUNDRAISERS

Two Fundraisers Benefitting the Haiti Medical Mission Taking Place in September and October. For the past 21 years, St. Francis of Assisi parishioners have contributed generously to support the Haiti Medical Mission, an ongoing effort to provide primary medical interventions to parishioners of St. Francis' sister parish, Conversion of St. Paul's Parish, in Leon, Haiti. For five one-week medical missions each year, volunteer medical personnel treat their Haitian patients for a vast array of medical ailments, such as scabies, worms, club feet, broken bones, tumors, growths, diabetes and high blood pressure. For many patients, the medical mission is the only access to healthcare they have.

Over the next two months, two fundraising events will take place to raise funds to continue the Haiti Medical Mission next year. They are:

- **Haiti Benefit Banquet:** From 6:30-10:30 p.m. Friday, September 22, come enjoy a delicious dinner at New Fortune Restaurant at 16515 S. Frederick Ave. in Gaithersburg and stay for great entertainment, including a silent auction, live dance performances and karaoke. Tickets for this event are \$35 in advance and \$40 at the door. Tickets will be sold after all Masses this weekend in the Gathering Space or can be purchased by e-mailing Hoai-an Truong at htruong@umes.edu or calling him at (240) 401-4284.
- **Haiti Benefit Concert:** On Saturday, October 28, former Music Director Verena Anders will return to St. Francis of Assisi with her husband Will Buthod to headline a concert benefitting the Haiti Medical Mission. The concert will take place at 7 p.m. in the church. Stay tuned for the music selections and program title. For more information, contact St. Francis Music Director Deirdre Sweet at sfadwmusic@gmail.com.

CHRISTIAN CONTEMPORARY ARTIST TO HEADLINE CONCERT AT ST. JOHN NEUMAN ON AUGUST 28

On Monday, August 28, Catholic artists Ike Ndolo and Sarah Kroger will be joined by hit singer/songwriter and Christian contemporary artist Josh Wilson ("That Was Then, This Is Now," "Before the Morning," "Carry Me," "I Refuse") for an evening of worship at 7 p.m. at St. John Neumann Catholic Church in Gaithersburg. The evening will consist of a Holy Hour led by Ndolo and Kroger, followed by the concert. Families and people are invited to attend. For more information or to buy tickets, visit www.littleflowerevents.com.

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.

DISCOVERING CHRIST SESSION

Register for Upcoming Discovering Christ Session after All Masses This Weekend in the Gathering Space. If someone asked you whether you truly knew Christ, what would your answer be? *Discovering Christ*, the foundational course in the ChristLife Series, can help you answer that question affirmatively if you'll take the leap to learn for yourself. The next session of *Discovering Christ* will begin Thursday, September 28, and will focus on how participants can encounter Christ and build a relationship with Him. During the seven-week course, participants will meet each week for a casual meal, prayer and worship, a DVD lesson on the session's theme and small group discussion about the implications of those lessons in one's daily life. The schedule is below:

Session	Date	Topic
1	Sept 28	<i>What is the meaning of life?</i>
2	Oct 5	<i>Why does Jesus Matter?</i>
3	Oct 12	<i>What does Jesus want us to know?</i>
4	Oct 19	<i>Why do I need a Savior?</i>
5	Oct 26	<i>Why is the Resurrection important?</i>
Retreat	Nov 4 (all-day Saturday Retreat)	<i>Holy Spirit Retreat</i>
6	Nov 9	<i>New Life in the Spirit</i>
7	Nov 16	<i>Our Need for the Church</i>

St. Francis parishioners can register for *Discovering Christ* after all Masses this weekend in the Gathering Space. For more information, contact Medy DeAussen, coordinator of the ChristLife Series Ministry, at SFADCHRIST@comcast.net.

HELP 'EM SMILE!

By joining the Mid-Maryland Dental Mission of Mercy and Health Equity Festival, you can help 2,000 uninsured people experiencing dental calamity obtain \$2M worth of emergency treatments. Dental and medical professionals and general volunteers at least 18 years old, are welcome and must register in advance. Shifts are half a day, serve one or more shifts. Volunteers get an amazing experience (and a T-shirt). The event is **September 7, 8, & 10** at the University of Maryland Xfinity Center in College Park, MD. To get more information and register please visit www.CatholicCharitiesDC.org/MOM.

DONATE YOUR USED CLOTHING -If you are sorting through gently used clothing to give away, remember that there is a St. Vincent de Paul clothing collection bin in the lower parking lot. Donations of clean clothing in good repair is greatly appreciated. Please put clothing in a plastic bag and deposit in the slot at the top of the bin. Collections are made weekly and will be a great blessing to those in need in the region.

WORLDWIDE MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER

Help discover the keys to your marriage by participating in a Worldwide Marriage Encounter (WWME) 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.