

ST FRANCIS OF ASSISI, DERWOOD

Mass Intentions

September 11 - September 17

Monday, 9/11	9:00 a.m. Lacava & Jamgochian Families
Tuesday, 9/12	9:00 a.m. Reverend Thomas Crowley
Wednesday, 9/13	9:00 a.m. Helen Mooney 7:30 p.m. Toni Woods Lilik (L)
Thursday, 9/14	9:00 a.m. Don Smith
Friday, 9/15	9:00 a.m. Thomas J. McCann III
Saturday, 9/16	9:00 a.m. Oscar Palini 5:00 p.m. Frank Chite
Sunday, 9/17	8:00 a.m. Adelina Canino 9:30 a.m. De Castro Family Members (L) 11:15 a.m. <i>Pro populo</i> 5:00 p.m. Catherine Dillon Bullen

Please pray for the sick...Barbara Sposato, Millie Cosman, Madelyn Cabatic, 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 September 10, 2017

Sunday:	Ez 33:7-9/Ps 95:1-2, 6-9/Rom 13:8-10/ Mt 18:15-20
Monday:	Col 1:24--2:3/Ps 62:6-7, 9/Lk 6:6-11
Tuesday:	Col 2:6-15/Ps 145:1b-2, 8-11/Lk 6:12-19
Wednesday:	Col 3:1-11/Ps 145:2-3, 10-13ab/Lk 6:20-26
Thursday:	Nm 21:4b-9/Ps 78:1-2, 34-38/Phil 2:6-11/ Jn 3:13-17
Friday:	1 Tm 1:1-2, 12-14/Ps 16:1b-2, 5, 7-8, 11/ Jn 19:25-27
Saturday:	1 Tm 1:15-17/Ps 113:1b-5, 6-7/Lk 6:43-49
Next Sunday:	Sir 27:30--28:7/Ps 103:1-4, 9-12/Rom 14:7-9/ Mt 18:21-35

OUR LADY OF SORROWS MASS & ROSARY AT ALL SOULS CEMETERY

Since the earliest days of the Church, believers have found consolation and hope in the companionship of Our Lady in prayer at the cemetery. Gather with us at All Souls Cemetery on Friday, September 15, 2017, at 5:00 p.m. For more information, please contact All Souls Cemetery at 301-428-1995.

Scripture Corner

CHURCH DISCOURSE

In the eighteenth chapter of his Gospel Matthew presents the fourth of his five discourses by Jesus. (The use of five is possibly based on the five books of Moses) The evangelist first points out the need to imitate children: "Whoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven." (Matthew 18:4) With abuse of children in mind Christ declares, "Such things must come" but woe to the one through whom they come." (Matthew 18:7)

In today's Gospel (Matthew 18:15-20) our Lord tells the early Church how they should deal with members who sin. Jesus wants the sinner to return to the community through following his example of loving concern. The goal is to get the member to practice repentance – change of mind. If the intervention by one member does not succeed, he or she is encouraged to take one or two more in the effort to bring the person involved back to the church.

If the efforts taken so far do not succeed, Christ wants the sinner to be reported to the church! The local community has the power to excommunicate the sinner, to treat him or her "as a Gentile or as a tax collector." (Matthew 18:17) The church would continue to work with those communities. Excommunication was meant to bring the sinner to repentance. Saint Paul made the Gentiles the central focus of his ministry. Our Lord himself reached out to Matthew, a tax collector, and he responded immediately.

Excommunication was not a vindictive action, but rather a strong measure to encourage the return of sinners to the church. In today's second reading (Romans 13:8-10) Saint Paul reminds his fellow Christians that all commandments "are summed up in the saying, 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.'" (Romans 13:9)

Here are two situations where Jesus provides great assurance to his local communities. "For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them." (Matthew 18:20) As Christ is preparing to return to his Father, he assures all of his followers, "Behold, I am with you always, until the end of the age." (Matthew 28:20)

Fr. Ralph

RCIA This Wednesday, September 13th the RCIA program for those interested in becoming Catholics or completing their Sacraments of Initiation will begin. The first stage of RCIA is the period of Inquiry. This is the time for interested persons to ask questions about the Catholic faith. You don't want to miss this opportunity. Join us Wednesday night at 8 PM in the Gathering Space to find out more about RCIA. 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.*

STEWARDSHIP REPORT

Figures were not available at the time of publication.

Thank you for your continued support

The Twenty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time

QUESTION OF THE WEEK

Who in my life right now do I need to “win over” for the Lord?

2017 MONTGOMERY COUNTY FAIR

It was the worst of days and the best of days at this year's Montgomery County Agricultural Fair. The week started with rain followed by cloudy and hot followed by the BEST WEDNESDAY ever in fair history and then 95 degrees with a heat index over 105. But the weather for the final two days settled down, the crowds came out and the St. Francis team served up hundreds of hamburgers, cheese burgers, hot dogs, pulled pork, beans, Cole slaw and endless boats of French fries to the hungry horde.

Prepping, cooking, serving and cleaning the tons of food during the nine days of the fair can only be done with the support of the many volunteers who worked together to get the job done. Every individual played an essential part and everyone deserves credit for the financial success of this mission. God bless you all and we will see you next August, rain or shine at the corner of Sycamore and Maple. ~ *Sylvia, Nadine & Anne*

THE MUSINGS OF THE PASTOR (continued)

During Stanley's years in Guatemala, a civil war was raging in that country. Once the civil war came to the villages surrounding Lake Atitlán, many people, including some of his own catechists, began to disappear regularly. His response was to show the way of love to all through his daily work in the mission: teaching agriculture to simple farmers, educating the children, and burying the dead—particularly those whom no one would claim. By 1980 the political and anti-Church climate continued to worsen. Six months before his death, Stanley and his associate pastor left Guatemala under threat of death because they witnessed the abduction of a parish catechist. However, he returned to Guatemala in time to celebrate Holy Week in April of 1981, ignoring the pleas of those who urged him to consider his own safety. On July 12, 1981, in a statement read in all the nation's parishes, the bishops of Guatemala denounced a “carefully studied plan” by the government to intimidate the church and silence its prophetic voice. Sixteen days later three non-indigenous men broke into the rectory, beating Fr. Stanley and then shooting him twice in the head. His body was shipped back to Oklahoma for burial but his heart was entombed under the altar in Santiago Atitlán at the request of his parishioners.

Fr. Stanley was one of thirteen priests who were killed during Guatemala's 36 year-war, a tragedy that killed an estimated 140,000 people. Archbishop Paul Coakley of Oklahoma City sums it all up very well: “He had the heart of a shepherd. The life and witness of Father Rother is a gift to the Church in America, especially the way he lived his priesthood: selflessly, generously, and heroically.” For more information on Fr. Stanley's life, you can read the biography of him by María Ruiz Scaperlanda, *The Shepherd Who Didn't Run* (Our Sunday Visitor).

Until next week,
Fr. John

THE MUSINGS OF THE PASTOR

During the latter part of this year we will see two men born in the United States declared Blessed by the Church. The first one to be beatified will be Fr. Stanley Rother (1935-81). His beatification will take place in Oklahoma City on September 23, 2017. I will write about Fr. Rother in this week's column. The second American to be beatified this year is Fr. Solanus Casey, O.F.M. Cap. He will be beatified in Detroit on November 18, 2017. I will write about him in next week's column.

Stanley Rother was one of five children born to Franz Rother (1911-2000) and Gertrude Smith Rother (1913-87). He had two brothers and two sisters. Stanley grew up in Okarche, Oklahoma where the local parish, school, and farm were pillars of community life. After graduating from high school he told his parents that he felt called to the priesthood. Stanley had not taken Latin in high school and struggled with several courses in the seminary as a result of it. Often in those days a seminarian needed a good knowledge of Latin to be successful in seminary studies. In fact one seminary dismissed him after he had completed first theology because he had performed poorly in several courses. But because Bishop Victor Reed, Bishop of Oklahoma City-Tulsa, believed that he had a vocation to the priesthood, he sent Stanley to study at Mount St. Mary's Seminary in Emmitsburg. He successfully completed the seminary course of studies there and was ordained a priest on May 25, 1963.

While Stanley was still in the seminary, Pope St. John XXIII issued a call to the Churches of North America to supply priests for the countries of Central and South America. Heeding this call, Bishop Reed established a mission in Santiago Atitlán in Guatemala, a poor rural community of mostly indigenous people. No resident priest had served that indigenous community for almost a century. During his first five years of priestly ministry Fr. Stanley served as a parochial vicar in several parishes in the diocese. In 1968 he requested an assignment in the Guatemalan mission. Bishop Reed accepted his request. Fr. Stanley would serve in the parish of St. James the Apostle (Santiago Apóstol) in Santiago Atitlán for the next thirteen years.

Once in Guatemala Stanley worked hard to learn both Spanish and the Tz'utuhil language spoken by the indigenous people. The work ethic that Fr. Stanley had learned at home on the family farm served him well in the Guatemalan mission. As a mission priest he was called upon not only to say Mass but also to fix the broken truck or work in the fields. He built a farm cooperative, a school, a hospital, and the first Catholic radio station which he used for catechetical purposes to the more remote villages. He was also a critical force in developing Tz'utuhil as a written language, which led to translations of the Mass and the Lectionary, with the New Testament in Tz'utuhil being published after his death. By the grace of God, Fr. Stanley who flunked because he could not master Latin became the missionary pastor who not only learned Spanish but became fluent in his parishioners' native tongue, Tz'utuhil. Because the native peoples could not say Stanley, they called him instead Padre Apla (which translates as Francisco in their native language). He was known for his kindness, selflessness, and attentive presence among his parishioners.

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, September 12, 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 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.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS CAR RAFFLE

Next weekend, representatives from Montgomery Council 2323 of the Knights of Columbus will be selling tickets for the Maryland State Council Annual Car Raffle after all Masses. The tickets are \$1.00 each. Montgomery Council 2323 receives \$.60 for each ticket sold, and the entire proceeds will benefit the Pope John Paul II Seminarians. Last year, one of our parishioners won the \$200 gift card. Please support this worthy cause.

CONTEMPORARY FOLK GROUP SEEKING NEW MEMBERS

Are you new to the parish and would you like to meet more people? Have you been a parishioner for years and have thought about being in a music group but just never joined? Come praise the Lord with us in song! If you like to sing or you play an instrument, then come join the **Contemporary Folk Group**. We lead music at the 11:15 a.m. Mass on Sundays and practice on Tuesday evenings at 7:30 p.m. Share your talents and join us in serving Christ and his church. We are an intergenerational group and welcome people of all ages. Any children interested should be nine years old and older. For more information, e-mail Sue Madison at musikal76@msn.com or call her at (301) 977-6854. You can also contact John Ryan at (301) 977-2690.

SMALL GROUP SIGN-UP STARTS SEPTEMBER 9-10 AFTER MASSES

Have you yearned for a closer connection with God and with your fellow parishioners? Are you looking for ways to share and grow your faith with people on a similar spiritual journey? Then, joining a Small Group may be just right for you.

Small groups provide a way to make our big St. Francis community more intimate by helping parishioners explore their faith together. In a home setting, participants gather in groups of five to 10 to reflect on readings, share their views, apply what they've learned to their lives and listen to others' experiences.

Sign up this weekend in the Gathering Space to join an established Small Group, such as the Martha/Mary Women's Group or the Saturday Morning Spiritual Reading Group, or join a new one. St. Francis is launching some of the following new Small Groups, including:

- **Sunday Mass Preparation Small Group**, where groups will meet weekly over a six-week period or longer to read and discuss the coming week's readings and be better prepared for Mass.
- **Pivotal Players Small Group**, where members will delve into Bishop Robert Barron's film series about The Pivotal Players – a handful of saints, artists, mystics and scholars, who, not only shaped the life of the Church, but changed the course of civilization.
- **Psalmody**, a small group of parishioners who pray through ensemble singing and instrument playing. An ability to sing is not required – just a desire to join with others in song as a means of prayer.
- **Catholic Perspectives on the Vietnam War**, where parishioners will gather to watch Ken Burns' 10-part documentary series on the Vietnam War and discuss their personal experiences of how the war impacted them and their family, Catholic social teaching on war and peace as a path of reconciliation and healing. All views are welcome and accepted on this subject.

Most small groups will begin meeting in October and will meet weekly for six to eight weeks or weekly, bi-weekly or monthly throughout the year and take off holidays or the summer. For more information about joining or starting a small group, please e-mail Small Group Coordinator Alice Welanetz at awelanetz@gmail.com or call her at (301) 351-6706.

COME ATTEND THE 2017 MARIAN CONFERENCE

St. Francis of Assisi families are invited to attend the 2017 Marian Conference to be held Saturday, Oct. 7, at the Mother of God School Gymnasium in Gaithersburg to learn why Mary is real, what we have in common and why she's an integral part of our Catholic faith. The conference will start with a Rosary at 12:30 p.m. and continue with a multi-faceted program from 1-5 p.m. Sponsored by the Central Maryland Chapter of Couples for Christ, the event's goal is to expand participants' understanding and appreciation of Mary, so we can love her more as she leads us to her son, Jesus.

Registration is free but participants must **register by Sept. 15**. Register by going to <https://tinyurl.com/cfcmarian2017>. Please eat lunch before you arrive or bring a bag lunch. Water and light refreshments will be served.

The Mother of God School Gymnasium is located at 20501 Goshen Road, Gaithersburg, 20879. For more information, contact Medy DeAussen at medydeausen@comcast.net.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS/EVENTS

REGISTRATION FOR 2017-2018

Classes begin next week, September 17, 18, and 19! Children must be registered before they can begin classes. A welcome letter and RE calendar was mailed to all who have registered and we are looking forward to a great start to this new year!

It's not too late to register! Space is still available in most classes and children are welcome to start classes once registration is received and processed. 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). Please call the Religious Education Office if you need more information: 301-258-9193.

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 pm Youth Mass)

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. **Families requesting sacraments for a child attending Catholic School are also asked to complete and return a religious education registration form as soon as possible.** Additional details about sacramental preparation will be provided at parent meetings in October.

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. We need your help to keep our class sizes small. If you would like to learn more about this important ministry, please contact Susan Anderson, Director of Religious Education, at 301-258-9193.

Catechesis for Children and Youth with Special Needs

Our parish offers catechetical sessions specifically designed for children and youth with special needs and their families. Our first class meets Sunday, September 24 from 3:30-4:30 pm in the St. Clare Room. If you would like to learn more about these sessions, or if you are interested in serving as a catechist or aide for children with special needs, please call Susan Anderson, Director of Religious Education, at 301-258-9193.

YOUTH MINISTRY NEWS/EVENTS

ST. FRANCIS YOUTH MINISTRY

Upcoming Events

FRED

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

INFORMATION FOR CATECHISTS

New and returning catechists are asked to note the following dates:

- **Catechist Meetings by Session** (in the Parish Center):
- **Pre-K/K Catechists:** Sunday, September 10, 11:10- 12:15 p.m.
- **Grade 1-5 Catechists:**
- Sunday Session: September 10, 9:20-10:35 a.m.
- Monday Session: September 11, 4:45-6:00 p.m.
- **Grade 6-8 Catechists:**
- Monday Session: September 11 6:45-8:00 p.m.
- Tuesday Session: September 12, 6:45-8:00 p.m.

Catechetical Sunday, September 16/17:

Next week, we will celebrate **Catechetical Sunday** with the Commissioning of Catechists at all Masses. Please pray for our catechists, our students and all families as together we teach and share the faith this year!

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.

FAITH DIRECT

With the arrival of autumn, I'd like to invite you to join Faith Direct, our parish's electronic giving program. Our to-do lists can get lengthy during this season, but Faith Direct's eGiving program will give you one less thing to remember each week--no more envelopes to find before you go to Mass. Visit www.faithdirect.net and use our church code: **MD110**. Currently over 200 families are giving through Faith Direct. Thank you for your continued support of our parish family! God Bless You, ~ Fr. John

TWO HAITI MEDICAL MISSION FUNDRAISERS AROUND THE CORNER THIS FALL

For the past 21 years, St. Francis of Assisi Parish has generously supported the Haiti Medical Mission, an all-volunteer endeavor in which medical practitioners provide primary medical interventions five times a year to parishioners of Conversion of St. Paul's Parish and area residents. This fall, two fundraisers in September and October will help generate much needed funds that keep the medical missions operational.

- **Haiti Medical Mission Charity Banquet** – On Friday, Sept. 22, join us for a fun-filled evening from 6:30-10:30 p.m. at New Fortune Restaurant in Gaithersburg. The banquet will feature a multi-course dinner and great entertainment, including a silent auction, dance performances and karaoke. Tickets are \$35 in advance and will be sold Sept. 9 and 10 at the Just Haiti Coffee Table in the Gathering Space. Tickets can also be purchased for \$40 at the door. For more information or for tickets, contact Hoai-an Truong at (240) 401-4284 or at htruong@umes.edu.
- **Haiti Benefit Concert** – On Saturday, Oct. 28, former St. Francis Music Director Verena Anders and her husband Will Buthod will be the featured performers at the Haiti Benefit Concert at 7 p.m. in the church. The music selection has not yet been finalized, but promises to be eclectic and multi-lingual. Tickets will be sold in the Gathering Space on October 7-8 and October 21-22, as well as in the Parish Office in coming weeks. For more information, contact St. Francis Music Director Deirdre Sweet at sfadwmusic@gmail.com.

THE EUTHANASIA DECEPTION

Join the Maryland March for Life for a screening of *The Euthanasia Deception*, a one-hour documentary featuring powerful testimonies from Belgium and beyond of lives devastated by the false ideology of "mercy killing." Learn what you need to know to help prevent physician-assisted suicide from being made legal and how you can prevent it from becoming a reality in Maryland. The film screening and discussion will be held on Tuesday, September 26 from 7-9pm in the Trumpet Room of St. Raphael Church in Rockville, MD (1513 Dunster Rd.). For more information, contact the Maryland March for Life at info@marylandmarchforlife.org or Anthony Bosnick at 301-840-1407.

270CATHOLICS (Young Adults) UPCOMING EVENTS

September 14 - young adults (20s and 30s) are invited to The Barkling Dog (4723 Elm Street, Bethesda, MD 20814) for Happy Hour from **6-7 pm** followed by a talk and Q&A from **7-8 pm** with Tex Phelps, director of Youth Ministry for the Archdiocese of Washington & member of the National CYO Sports Leadership committee. Topic- *"It's not whether you win or lose, it's how you pray the game!"* Visit <https://www.facebook.com/270Catholic/events> or email: 270catholic@gmail.com

September 16 - Young adults (20s and 30s) save the date: **9:00-12 Noon** for our monthly service event at A Wider Circle (9159 Brookville Road, Silver Spring, MD 20910). Tasks involve sorting through donations, re-stocking the show rooms, and helping load up trucks or client's vehicles. Visit <https://www.facebook.com/270Catholic/events> or email: 270Catholic@gmail.com for more info.

2017 COMMUNICATIONS SURVEY SHOWS PARISHIONERS INTERESTED IN HOW SCRIPTURE RELATES TO THEIR LIVES

St. Francis parishioners go to church and online to learn what's happening in our parish, but are hungry to know how Scripture applies to their daily lives and learn more about what our parish's ministries do, according to results of the 2017 Communications Ministry Survey administered this summer.

Three hundred thirty-three parishioners responded to the survey, which was administered both online through Survey Monkey and in church pews in late June. The survey was designed to provide a baseline of how parishioners view parish wide communications, particularly the efficacy of individual communications vehicles, what people feel informed about and new content features they'd like to see. The survey was timely, because St. Francis recently launched or had begun using several new communications vehicles, including a redesigned web site, the Information Monitor and Flocknotes.

The greatest percentage of respondents find the church bulletin to be the most efficient communications vehicle, with 89 percent of those surveyed rating it effective or very effective. Eighty-three percent of respondents likewise said the pulpit announcements were effective, though 17 percent of respondents rated them somewhat or not at all effective. Seventy-three percent of respondents rated Flocknote -- the e-mail application Fr. John Dillon uses to send out weekly e-mails and occasional texts -- as effective, and a close 71 percent of those surveyed said the same about www.sfadw.org.

On a surprising note, 36 percent of respondents rated social media -- Facebook, Instagram and Twitter -- as effective or very effective and close to a third of people rated use of these accounts as not at all effective. Almost 60 percent of respondents rated road signs as somewhat or not at all effective and 50 percent of respondents rated automated phone messages the same.

When it comes to what people feel informed -- or not informed -- about, 80 percent of respondents said they felt informed or well informed about 'the work of leadership and parish staff' and 90 percent said the same about 'activities and events.' Sixty-eight percent of those surveyed said they felt informed about 'parish financials,' but nearly a third said they felt somewhat or not at all informed -- an area where there's room for growth. In the areas of adult and youth faith formation, 78 percent and 73 percent, respectively, said they were informed, but 22 and 27 percent said they were only somewhat or not at all informed about these areas -- another potential growth area.

Despite the amount of information provided about the parish, parishioners are clearly clamoring for additional specific content. Sixty-nine percent of respondents said they'd like to know how this week's Scripture relates to my life today -- an area that may be addressed by the Sunday Mass Preparation Small Group that is launching this fall. Likewise, 62 percent of people said they'd like to see more feature stories about parish activities, suggesting a desire for more in-depth knowledge about what church ministries are doing.

Eighty-nine percent of respondents also said they would like to see a general e-newsletter as an additional communication vehicle. An e-newsletter is slated to be launched this fall using the Flocknote application.

The Communications Ministry thanks all those parishioners who responded to the survey. It also thanks parishioner Rosemary Spezzano, who helped enter the paper survey results.

For additional information on the survey results, contact Melissa Egan, Communications Coordinator, Melissa.egan74@verizon.net.