



Mass Intentions

January 15 - January 21

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|------------------------|--|
| Monday, 1/15 | 9:00 a.m. Michael DiPanfilo |
| Tuesday, 1/16 | 9:00 a.m. Nick & Deloris Montefiore |
| Wednesday, 1/17 | 9:00 a.m. Adela Canino 7:30 p.m. Boyen Oriel |
| Thursday, 1/18 | 9:00 a.m. Fr. Ivan Almodovar |
| Friday, 1/19 | 9:00 a.m. Msgr. Vincent Gatto |
| Saturday, 1/20 | 9:00 a.m. Hector Aspillera, Jr. 5:00 p.m. Margaret Gorman |
| Sunday, 1/21 | 8:00 a.m. David Newell 9:30 a.m. Zenaida Nabor 11:15 a.m. <i>Pro populo</i> 5:00 p.m. Peter Nichols |

+ In Memoriam Aeternam +

In your charity, please pray for the repose of the soul of Guy Beaven, husband of Dianne Beaven.

Please pray for the sick....Lillie Coker, Bernard Kohan, Dick Hunt, Maureen Hurley, Ed Dudenhoeffer, Bob Coyne, Evelyn Haddad, Carolyn Speaks, Bart Trickett, Katrina Schmidt, Bienvenido Delrosario, Jackie Roebuck King, Jeni Stepanek.. (*Names will remain on this list for four consecutive weeks, but can be repeated by calling the Office.*)

Readings for the Week of January 14, 2018

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| Sunday: | 1 Sm 3:3b-10, 19/Ps 40:2, 4, 7-8, 8-9, 10 [8a, 9a]/1 Cor 6:13c-15a, 17-20/Jn 1:35-42 |
| Monday: | 1 Sm 15:16-23/Ps 50:8-9, 16bc-17, 21 and 23 [23b]/Mk 2:18-22 |
| Tuesday: | 1 Sm 16:1-13/Ps 89:20, 21-22, 27-28 [21a]/Mk 2:23-28 |
| Wednesday: | 1 Sm 17:32-33, 37, 40-51/Ps 144:1b, 2, 9-10 [1]/Mk 3:1-6 |
| Thursday: | 1 Sm 18:6-9; 19:1-7/Ps 56:2-3, 9-10a, 10b-11, 12-13 [5b]/Mk 3:7-12 |
| Friday: | 1 Sm 24:3-21/Ps 57:2, 3-4, 6 and 11 [2a]/Mk 3:13-19 |
| Saturday: | 2 Sm 1:1-4, 11-12, 19, 23-27/Ps 80:2-3, 5-7/Mk 3:20-21 |
| Next Sunday: | Jon 3:1-5, 10/Ps 25:4-5, 6-7, 8-9 [4a]/1 Cor 7:29-31/Mk 1:14-20 |

THE MUSINGS OF THE PASTOR

Last week we celebrated Epiphany, I promised a number of parishioners that I would talk about the traditional method of blessing homes on this solemn Feast day. You use incense, blessed chalk (which is an incarnational image because it reminds us of the dust of the earth from which we are made, and "Jordan water." The chalk is used to mark 20+C+M+B+18 over doorways. The numerals consecrate New Year. The initials remind us of the legendary names of the Magi—Caspar, Melchior, and Balthasar. The initials also stand for the Latin motto: *Christus mansionem benedicat* (*May Christ bless the house*). If you are interested in having your house blessed, please let me know. Fr. Jack, the Deacons, and I would be very happy to accommodate these requests. You can phone me at the parish office or email me at jdillon@sfadw.org if this is of interest to you.

Last week I gave some advice to parents of children who are of pre-kindergarten age (3-4) about activities that they could do at home to strengthen their understanding and acceptance of the teaching of our Catholic faith in the areas of the knowledge of the faith, liturgy and sacraments, morality, prayer, education for living in the Christian community, and evangelization and apostolic life. This week I want to give similar advice to the parents of children who are in kindergarten.

Our parish presents a comprehensive program of faith formation following *Forming Disciples for the New Evangelization*. You can read more about our parish religious education program by checking out the following on our parish website: <https://sfadw.org/children-grades-pre-k-8>. There are several key elements to the archdiocesan curriculum. I'll suggest some at-home activities for each one of them.

Key Element I: Knowledge of the Faith. Parents of children in kindergarten might consider the following ways to strengthen the teaching of the *Knowledge of the Faith* at home. Children are made by God to love and receive love. The first order of catechesis, or religious instruction, then, is an education in love. Parents can stimulate awareness, awe, and joy for life in the preschool child through nurturing loving relationships and life's precious moments together. Noticing the beauty of God's creation in nature and exposing children to religious symbols can be particularly illuminating.

Key Element II: Liturgy and Sacraments. Parents of children in kindergarten might consider the following ways to strengthen the teaching of *Liturgy and Sacraments* at home. Parents teach young children the meaning of family and ritual. Participation in family rituals (such as bedtime rituals, family prayer, seasonal celebrations) by preschoolers can form the basis for their future understanding of worship. Attending Mass with children is an excellent opportunity to teach them about the various religious signs and symbols.

Key Element III: Morality. Parents of children in kindergarten might consider the following ways to strengthen the teaching of *Morality* at home. Parents help children to learn to love as Christ loves. This moral formation begins in the home through parental age appropriate example and through opportunities to teach young children the difference between right and wrong. Even at this young age, children learn there are consequences to their actions for good or for ill.

Continued in the column to the right.....

Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

QUESTION OF THE WEEK

How do I respond to God's call? Am I willing to change my life to follow Christ?

WELCOME to the Family of Christ!

The following individuals and their families recently joined our St. Francis faith community during the month of December:

Gil Wilford Bautista
Maria Martinez
Doreen & Laura Olson
Laure Sozo

The following children were baptized during the month of December:

Henry Stephen Adams
Marina May Lee
June Victoria Sullivan

COLLECTION FOR CHURCH MISSIONS IN THE USA

This weekend is the Archdiocese of Washington collection for Church Missions in the United States. This collection supports home mission dioceses in this country that are unable to offer their people basic liturgical, pastoral, and service ministries without outside help. It also supports vulnerable Black and Native American communities with funds for parish support and evangelization needs. Thank you for your generosity

THE MUSINGS OF THE PASTOR (continued)

Key Element IV: Prayer. Parents of children in kindergarten might consider the following ways to strengthen the teaching of *Prayer* at home. Families pray simple prayers with children and establish patterns of prayer that are comfortable for them as a family. Spontaneous prayer, meal prayers, bedtime prayers, and prayers at special family times are all excellent ways to introduce prayer to the preschool child. At this young age, teaching children rote prayers like the Our Father, Hail Mary, and Glory Be are learned through repetition.

Key Element V: Education for Living in the Christian Community. Parents of children in kindergarten might consider the following ways to strengthen the teaching of *Education for Living in the Christian Community* at home. Parents model community life to their young children through active participation in parish life. Even simple actions, like talking to the priests or other parishioners after Mass, show children the value of community life. Setting aside time to be with preschoolers to share the events of the day, to hug them, and to listen carefully to them are ways parents nurture the faith of the child by being models of loving service and care.

Key Element VI: Evangelization and Apostolic Life. Parents of children in kindergarten might consider the following ways to strengthen the teaching of *Evangelization and Apostolic Life* at home. An apostolic life is passed on in its practice. A sense of security and trust in the home are of vital importance as a basis upon which faith builds. It is from this basis of love and trust that children will acquire later in life a desire to reach out to others to share their faith.

Until next week,

Fr. John

**PARISH OFFICES WILL BE CLOSED,
MONDAY, JANUARY 15
IN OBSERVANCE OF THE
MARTIN LUTHER KING HOLIDAY**

FOUR WEEK SESSION ON THE EUCHARIST STARTS WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 10

The RCIA Team invites all parishioners, together with our candidates and catechumens, to gain a deeper understanding of the Eucharist during a four-week series that began January 10. The sessions focus on the Eucharist, the source and summit of our faith.

The sessions will be held at 8 p.m. Wednesdays in the Gathering Space. Topics are as follows:

- Jan. 10: *Believing in the Eucharist: The Center of the Church's Life*
- Jan. 17: *Celebrating the Eucharist: The Meaning and Parts of the Mass*
- Jan. 24: *Celebrating the Eucharist, The Environment with a tour of all areas of the Church*
- Jan. 31: *Loving the Eucharist: Leading a Eucharistic Life.*

The sessions are appropriate for any Catholic, whether you were born into the faith or recently converted. For more information, contact RCIA Ministry Co-chair Terry Davis at dav-istj23@gmail.com.

GET BETTER INFORMED ON ST. FRANCIS HAPPENINGS BY SIGNING UP FOR FLOCKNOTE

Have you heard of Flocknote? Flocknote is a texting and e-mail application through which St. Francis parishioners can receive communications via text, e-mail or e-newsletter. Currently, Fr. John sends out a weekly e-mail and several texts per month to highlight church observances or events, remind parishioners of upcoming activities or inform them of breaking church-related news. Sign up by going to the church web site at <http://www.sfadw.org>, scroll down to 'Flocknote Signup,' and type in and submit all the requested information. That's it!

For more information about Flocknote or any other St. Francis communications vehicle, contact St. Francis of Assisi Communications Coordinator Melissa Egan at Melissa.egan74@verizon.net.

January 14, 2018

LAMB OF GOD PRAYER MEETING Join the Lamb of God Prayer Group for worship and the study of Scripture on Tuesday, January 16, 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 week-end 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's 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.

SPAGHETTI & MEATBALL DINNER

Join Montgomery Council 2323 for Dinner

Spaghetti and meatballs! No better way to enjoy food and fellowship than with family and friends. On Sunday, January 28, the Knights of Columbus' chefs will be serving a fresh garden salad, Spaghetti & Meatballs, garlic bread, wine, beer and soft drinks. Dinner will be served from 3:00 to 7:00 pm at the Father Cuddy Hall, 17001 Overhill Road in Derwood. Tickets are available after all Masses today at \$10.00 for adults (ages 14 & above); \$7.00 for children (ages 7 to 13); free for children 6 & under; or, \$35.00 for a family; or by contacting Mike Thomas in advance at (301) 330-5970 or cinnabarmike@verizon.net. *Proceeds will support St. Francis' Medical Mission to Haiti.*

SAVE THE DATE VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION DINNER DANCE SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 3

LENTEN SMALL GROUP SIGN-UP BEGINS THIS WEEK

With our solemn season of Lent beginning in one month, it's time to start thinking again about our Lenten Small Groups. Past Lenten Small Group participants raved about the faith formation opportunity. They commented on how they "liked that I had a dedicated time each week to really focus on my relationship with Jesus, as well as getting to know some of my fellow parishioners" and "liked the sharing that we did because it helped me and others to explore our own relationship with Jesus, and the impact that encounter, with Him, should have in our daily lives."

This Lent, Small Groups will be meeting to discuss *Live Lent!* which includes Sunday reflections and inspirational prayers to help contemplate the next Sunday's Gospel readings. It also includes daily meditations. So, take this opportunity to embrace *Live Lent!* so you can live a more authentic faith long after those 40 days have passed.

Five Lenten Small Groups plan to meet on **Monday, Tuesday and Thursday evenings** as well as **Thursday and Saturday mornings**. If none of these times work for you, then let the Small Group Ministry leaders know when you would like to meet, and they will see if there are enough parishioners who can join you at that day and time. **Sign up at the Small Group Sign-up Table in the Gathering Space after Masses this weekend.**

For more information on the Lenten Small Groups, contact Small Group Coordinator Alice Welanetz at awelanetz@gmail.com.

2018 MARCH FOR LIFE FRIDAY, JANUARY 19, 2018

Noon Rally on National Mall (on east side of the Washington Monument) follow by the March along Constitution Ave to the Supreme Court on Capitol Hill. Theme - **'Love Saves Lives'**. Join hundreds of thousands of people from around the nation to pray & witness for life. Info about this event & related events at MarchForLife.org Live broadcast on EWTN.

Bus to attend the March for Life (Friday, January 19) will be leaving from St. Patrick's Church at 11:00 a.m. and returning by 5:30 p.m. There are a limited number of seats. Please contact [Monica Ludwig 301-924-2285 ext. 315](mailto:MonicaLudwig@301-924-2285) to reserve a seat. Please leave a message with your name, phone number & how many seats to reserve. (Due to rising costs, \$10/person, \$20/family) Thank you for your participation.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS/EVENTS

RE CLASS SCHEDULE REMINDERS

Please note that Religious Education classes will not meet this week, Sunday, Monday, and Tuesday, January 14, 15 and 16, in honor of the Martin Luther King Day holiday.

CONFIRMATION CANDIDATE SESSION: TUESDAY, JANUARY 16

Confirmation candidates will meet on Tuesday, January 16, for Confirmation class from 6:45-8:30 pm in the Parish Center.

FIRST RECONCILIATION

Children of St. Francis of Assisi Parish will be receiving the Sacrament of Reconciliation for the first time this Saturday, January 20 at 10:00 a.m. Please pray for these children as they prepare for and receive the gift of God's forgiveness in this beautiful Sacrament.

CATECHESIS FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

Our parish offers monthly catechetical sessions specifically designed for children and youth with special needs and their families. Our next session will be on Sunday, January 21 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.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION SNOW CANCELLATION POLICY

If Montgomery County Public Schools are closed, and if schools are dismissed early, Religious Education classes, including FRED, are also cancelled. This applies to Sunday classes as well if Montgomery County Public Schools announces cancellation of weekend school activities.

Cancellation announcements will be recorded on the Religious Education Office phone (301-258-9193) and posted on the St. Francis Parish Facebook page ("St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church") and website.

Whenever in doubt, please use your own judgment about local weather and driving conditions, and err on the side of safety when making decisions about bringing your child to class.



SAVE THE DATE FOR VACATION BIBLE CAMP!

St. Francis of Assisi Church invites children from age 4 to those who will complete the 5th Grade in June 2018 to join us at Vacation Bible Camp, June 25-29 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. Look for camper registration information, as well as information about volunteer opportunities for adults and teens, in the Spring!

YOUTH MINISTRY NEWS/EVENTS

ST. FRANCIS YOUTH MINISTRY *Upcoming Events*

FRED

JANUARY

- 14 Be Confident - Hebrews 10:23
- 19 National March for Life - Youth Rally & Mass for Life at Capital One Center
- 21 Be Virtuous - John 10:10
- 28 Be Just - Matthew 22:36

FEBRUARY

- 4 Super Bowl of Caring
- 11 Be Healed - Luke 5:23

GET SOCIAL

Follow us on Instagram & Twitter @ SFAFRED.

Quo Vadis "Shadow Day"

On Friday, January 26, young men who are juniors or seniors in high school are invited to join the Office of Priest Vocations for a special *Quo Vadis* "Shadow Day" at Saint John Paul II Seminary and The Catholic University of America. You will be able to experience a "day in the life" of a seminarian by joining them for Mass, Adoration, meals, class, sports, and just hanging out. This day is a great opportunity to come and see what a day in the life of a seminarian is like. Please register to attend at www.dcpriest.org, and please email vocations@adw.org with any questions.

NEXT SHARING CHRIST SESSION TO KICK-OFF ON FRIDAY, JANUARY 19

St. Francis parishioners are asked to pray for participants of *Sharing Christ*, the last course in the ChristLife Series that participants who completed the first two installments can now take. The ChristLife Series (*Discovering Christ*, *Following Christ*, and *Sharing Christ*) is a three-part evangelization process that brings together Catholics in small groups at the parish level, reintroduces them to Christ and teaches them how to live and share a Christ-centered life. It is the main program for adult faith formation at St. Francis of Assisi Parish.

The *Sharing Christ* course will begin on Friday, January 19, from 6:30-9 p.m. in the Youth Room of the Rectory. A seven-week session, *Sharing Christ* follows the same format used in *Discovering Christ* and *Following Christ* -- the first two courses of the ChristLife Series -- of fellowship, welcome and prayer, DVD teaching, small group discussion, and closing prayer. Participants will meet weekly from January 19 to March 3, with an all-day Saturday retreat before the final session.

For more information about *Sharing Christ* or any of the other courses in the ChristLife Series, contact Ministry Coordinator Medy DeAussen at sfadchrist@comcast.net.

GIVE YOUR OFFERTORY CONTRIBUTIONS BY AUTOMATIC PAYMENT THROUGH FAITH DIRECT

For those of you interested in simplifying your financial life this year, consider signing up for Faith Direct. This online giving program allows St. Francis parishioners to make all their offertory contributions to the church through automatic payments from their checking account or credit card – just as you might already do with mortgage payments, utility and credit card bills. To sign up for Faith Direct, go to <http://www.sfadw.org/faith-direct>. For more information, contact Parish Secretary Donna Zezzo at (301) 840-1407.

WINTER BEREAVEMENT GROUP

Have you lost a parent, child, spouse, or close friend and think you might benefit from group support as you grieve? St. Patrick's will offer a Winter grief support group. The group will be small in size and will provide a safe, compassionate, and prayerful environment for you to discuss your loss with others who share your experiences. The group will meet for 7 weekly sessions starting Thursday, January 25, 2018, from 10:00 – 11:30 am in the Parish Center. There is no fee, but registration is required. For more information and to register, please call Diane Salem at 301-924-4958.

OPEN HOUSE-MOTHER OF GOD SCHOOL

Looking for a good Catholic education for your children? Attend the Mother of God School Open House, Sunday, January 24 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., 20501 Goshen Road, Gaithersburg. We have the largest Catholic Pre-K program (3's and 4's) in the area, with before and aftercare available year-round. Check out our rigorous academic programs for K-8th grade as well. Call 301-990-2088 for a tour or more information any time! www.mogschool.com

GOOD COUNSEL THEATRE COMPANY AUDITIONS

Good Counsel Theatre Company's production of *The Music Man* seeking *Children/Students ages 6-12* for the roles of Winthrop and Children's Chorus. Tuesday, January 16 at 4:45-6:00p.m. Auditions will be held in the Theatre Classroom at Our Lady of Good Counsel in the Performing Arts Center.

- Age Range for all auditioners is 6 years to 12 years old.
- Boys interested in auditioning for the Role of Winthrop and/or the Children's Chorus should prepare the song "Gary, Indiana" from *The Music Man*.
- Girls interested in auditioning for the Children's Chorus should prepare the song "Somewhere Over the Rainbow" from *The Wizard of Oz*.

Those planning to attend the audition are asked to email Carol Boyle at GCTC@olgchs.org to set up an audition appointment.

MARRIAGE HELP

Retrouvaille (pronounced retro-vi) has helped tens of thousands of couples at all stages of disillusionment or misery in their marriage. This program can help you too. For confidential information about or to register for the January program beginning with a weekend on January 26-28, 2018 call (443) 400-7017, or email: 3015@retrouvaille.org or visit the web site at www.HelpOurMarriage.com

Spotlight on St. Jude Regional Catholic School
Catch our Spirit
www.StJudeRockville.org
<http://www.facebook.com/stjuderockvillemd>

OPEN HOUSE

We would love to share the story of our school with you. Attending a St. Jude Regional Catholic School Open House is a great way to learn about SJRCS and experience our welcoming community first-hand. SJRCS will be hosting an Open House on:

Wednesday, January 31, 2018

9:00-11:30 a.m. & 6:00-8:00 p.m.

Applications for enrollment for the 2018 school year are now being accepted. Visit www.stjuderockville.org. Go to Admission, then Apply Online, then Enrollment: [TADS: Online Registration and Enrollment](#).

Coat of Many Colors: SJRCS is having a coat drive from January 4th -18th. We are collecting new and gently used coats. Please bring your coat donations to the school main lobby. Thank you for joining us to help those in need this winter season.

3RD ANNUAL SJRCS INTERNATIONAL DAY!

We invite you to travel...All Over the World!

Friday, February 2nd at 10:00 a.m.

We would love Parishioners to share their cultural heritage with the students. We are asking volunteers to set up a booth that represents the country you come from. The booth will contain different artifacts from your country (flags, posters, photographs, art, etc.) We are also asking that you bring samples of food from your country for the students to try at International Day (small appetizers, small desserts, etc.). Students will get their "Passport" stamped at each country, learn about your culture, and sample the different foods. We are also looking for groups to perform during the festival. If you can set up a booth or know a group that would love to perform, please contact Mrs. Balog at Katharine.Balog@StJudeRockville.org

BENEFIT GALA AND AUCTION

Aloha!

Please join us March 10, 2018 at 6:00 p.m.

Silent Auction-Raffles-Live Auction

Buffet Dinner-Live Entertainment

Casual Dress (Hawaiian & Tropical attire encouraged!)

NEW THIS YEAR - Online and Mobile Bidding!

**** **DON'T FORGET** ****

Buy your Jeep Renegade raffle ticket TODAY!

www.StJudeRockville.org

ARE YOU AFFECTED

BY SOMEONE ELSE'S ADDICTION?

NAR-ANON offers hope. Nar-Anon Family Groups are a worldwide fellowship for those affected by someone else's addiction. As a twelve step program, we offer help by sharing our experience, strength, and hope. A meeting is held on Wednesday evenings 7:00 p.m., 15886B. Gaither Drive, Gaithersburg. For additional information contact Alison, (301) 963-6640 or visit the website nar-anon.org.