



Mass Intentions

January 22 - January 28

Monday: 1/22	9:00 a.m. Catherine Dillon Bullen
Tuesday, 1/23	9:00 a.m. Marie Popp
Wednesday, 1/24	9:00 a.m. Reverend Edward Evans 7:30 p.m. John Jakium
Thursday, 1/25	9:00 a.m. Deacon Pascal Hong
Friday, 1/26	9:00 a.m. F J. Mitchell
Saturday, 1/27	9:00 a.m. Deena Sprague 5:00 p.m. Nabih Saah
Sunday, 1/28	8:00 a.m. Co Chui 9:30 a.m. <i>Pro populo</i> 11:15 a.m. Helen Ann Breece 5:00 p.m. Mary Gail O'Kelly

+ In Memoriam Aeternam +

In your charity, please pray for the repose of the souls of Maureen Hurley, Dick Jubert, husband of Lois Jubert, Jose Maranhão, Ronald Buren, husband of Terry Buren.

Please pray for the sick....Lillie Coker, Bernard Kohan, Dick Hunt, 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 21, 2018

Sunday:	Jon 3:1-5, 10/Ps 25:4-5, 6-7, 8-9 [4a]/ 1 Cor 7:29-31/Mk 1:14-20
Monday:	2 Sm 5:1-7, 10/Ps 89:20, 21-22, 25-26 [25a]/ Mk 3:22-30
Tuesday:	2 Sm 6:12b-15, 17-19/Ps 24:7, 8, 9, 10 [8]/ Mk 3:31-35
Wednesday:	2 Sm 7:4-17/Ps 89:4-5, 27-28, 29-30 [29a]/ Mk 4:1-20
Thursday:	Acts 22:3-16 or Acts 9:1-22/Ps 117:1bc, 2 [Mk 16:15]/Mk 16:15-18
Friday:	2 Tm 1:1-8 or Ti 1:1-5/Ps 96:1-2a, 2b-3, 7-8a, 10 [3]/Mk 4:26-34
Saturday:	2 Sm 12:1-7a, 10-17/Ps 51:12-13, 14-15, 16-17 [12a]/Mk 4:35-41
Next Sunday:	Dt 18:15-20/Ps 95:1-2, 6-7, 7-9, [8]/ 1 Cor 7:32-35/Mk 1:21-28

THE MUSINGS OF THE PASTOR

For the past fifty years the Church has observed National Migration Week. This year it occurred from January 7-14, 2018. I want to share some of Cardinal Wuerl's remarks about National Migration Week 2018 and then report on a disturbing development with a statement by Bishop Joe S. Vasquez of Austin, Texas, chair of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) Committee on Migration. First let me present some reflections from Cardinal Wuerl:

"Recognizing how often the people of God found themselves strangers in a foreign Land, from Abraham and Jacob to the Holy Family and missionaries through the ages, the plight of migrants and refugees as long been a concern of the Church. To raise awareness and celebrate the gifts that people from other lands have to offer, the Church in the United States lifts up for us National Migration Week, which this year is observed from January 7-13..."

"This annual initiative comes this year as our nation considers much-needed immigration reform amidst which is actually a world-wide migration crisis. As Pope Francis notes in this Message for the 2018 World Day of Peace, over 250 million women, men and children are on the move, 22.5 million of whom are refugees. Stressing our humanity as sons and daughters of God, he says, "In a spirit of compassion, let us embrace all those fleeing from war and hunger, or forced by discrimination, persecution, poverty and environmental degradation to leave their homelands.

"Instead of viewing migration as a threat to national resources, the Holy Father encourages a welcoming response as part of the effort to build a just peace and better world. 'Migrants and refugees,' he says, 'do not arrive empty-handed. They bring their courage, skills, energy, and aspirations, as well as the treasures of their own cultures of their own cultures; and in this way, they enrich the lives of the nations that receive them.'"

These thoughts of Cardinal Wuerl and our Holy Father are well worth bearing in mind as we consider the implications of the decision by the Department of Homeland Security to terminate Temporary Protected Status (TPS) for El Salvador. TPS is temporary, renewable, and statutorily authorized humanitarian migration program that permits individuals to remain and work lawfully in the U.S. during a period in which it is deemed unsafe for nationals of that country to return home. The vast majority of TPS recipients in the U.S. are Salvadoran. Bishop Vasquez, Chair of the USCCB Committee on Migration, issued the following statement in response to the decision announced on January 8, 2018 by the Department of Homeland Security:

"The decision to terminate TPS for El Salvador is heartbreaking. As detailed in our recent [delegation trip report](#) to the region, El Salvador is currently not in a position to adequately handle the return of the roughly 200,000 Salvadoran TPS recipients. [To see this delegation trip report, please go to <https://tinyurl.com/y9j67fhu>.] Today's decision will fragment American families, leaving over 192,000 U.S. citizen children of Salvadoran TPS recipients with uncertain futures. Families will be needlessly separated because of this decision.

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

Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

QUESTION OF THE WEEK

How do I live my life as a disciple of Jesus? Do I share the good news through my words and actions?

CROSS CATHOLIC OUTREACH

Dear St. Francis Parishioners:

Cross Catholic Outreach wishes to thank you for the welcome you extended to Father Olszewski on our recent visit to your parish.

On behalf of the poorest of the poor, we thank you for having shared in their lives. May our Lord continue to bless all of you for your love and support! ~Cross Catholic Outreach

VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION DINNER DANCE

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 3

6:30 P.M.

RSVP DEADLINE

FRIDAY, JANUARY 26

THE MUSINGS OF THE PASTOR (continued)

“We believe that God has called us to care for the foreigner and the marginalized: 'So you too should love the resident alien, for that is what you were in the land of Egypt' (Deut. 10:19). Our nation must not turn its back on TPS recipients and their families; they too are children of God.

“DHS [Department of Homeland Security] has provided an 18-month period (through September 9, 2019) during which TPS recipients from El Salvador can legally stay in the United States and prepare for their departure. While we recognize and appreciate this extra time, it will not remedy the underlying protection and family unity concerns that remain for Salvadoran TPS recipients.

“We renew our call to Congress to work in a bipartisan manner to find a legislative solution for long-term TPS recipients, and we stand ready to support such efforts. TPS recipients are an integral part of our communities, churches, and nation. Without action by Congress, however, recipients' lives will be upended and many families will be devastated. As with DACA, we strongly urge Congressional members and leadership to come together and address this issue as soon as possible.

“To Salvadoran TPS recipients, we promise to continue to stand in solidarity with you and pray for you and your families, and all those who are displaced or forced to flee from their homes.”

Until next week,

Fr. John Dillon

SIGN UP FOR LENTEN SMALL GROUPS TODAY

Lenten Small Group sign-ups begin today in the Gathering Space – come meet other parishioners who are seeking a deeper faith life and fellowship and finding Jesus at the center of their Small Group. Parishioners who join a Lenten Small Group will be using the *Live Lent!* guide that includes Sunday reflections and prayers for inspiration in contemplating the next Sunday's Gospel readings. This helps to prepare each person to hear the readings and the homily the following Sunday, as we walk with fellow parishioners through Lent and more fully follow Jesus in every aspect of our life.

The *Live Lent!* booklet also provides daily meditations you can use individually or with your family. Parishioners loved the Lenten Small Groups last year, stating “how they helped grow healthy relationships with fellow parishioners, share life stories, and enrich their personal faith journeys.”

Sign up continues throughout January for Lenten Small Groups that will be meeting on **Monday, Tuesday and Thursday evenings**, as well as **Thursday and Saturday mornings**. If none of these times work for you, then let us know when you would like to meet, and we will see if there are enough other parishioners who would like to join you at that day and time. Sign-up tables will be in the Gathering Space after Masses beginning January 13 and 14.

FOUR-WEEK SESSION ON THE EUCHARIST CONTINUES JANUARY 24

The RCIA Team invites all parishioners, together with our candidates and catechumens, to explore the Eucharist during a four-week series that continues January 24. 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. 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.

Altar Servers Schedule

Saturday, January 27

5:00 p.m. M. Jones, A. Potter

Sunday, January 28

8:00 a.m. L. Federico, V. Ryba

9:30 a.m. R. Fitzgerald, J. Fitzgerald

11:15 a.m. M. Cannetti, A. Hall

5:00 p.m. C. Carroll, M. Pease

It is the responsibility of the Altar Server to get a replacement if you cannot serve at your scheduled time

January 21, 2018

LAMB OF GOD PRAYER MEETING Join the Lamb of God Prayer Group for worship and the study of Scripture on Tuesday, January 23, 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 the Prison Ministry Outreach Program. *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.*

NEW TO ST. FRANCIS? COME TO THE NEW PARISHIONERS WELCOME RECEPTION ON JANUARY 21

If you've recently joined St. Francis of Assisi Parish, then please attend the New Parishioners Welcome Reception at 2:30 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 21, in the Rectory. Come meet the clergy and lay church leaders, who will discuss many of the ministry options at St. Francis, including Social Concerns, Religious Education, and many liturgical, service and fellowship ministries. Wine, cheese and beverages will be served, and child care is provided.

For more information or to register, contact Ministry Coordinator Georgana Finn at dffinn98798@gmail.com.

DIGNITY OF LIFE SEMINAR OFFERS ANSWERS TO TOUGH QUESTIONS ON END-OF-LIFE SITUATIONS

Dignity of Life Seminar
February 17, 2018 from 9:30 a.m. to 12:00 Noon
Knights of Columbus Father Cuddy Hall
17001 Overhill Rd, Derwood, MD 20855

On Saturday, February 17, the St. Francis Health Ministry will sponsor the Dignity of Life Seminar featuring ethicist Fr. Daniel Mindling. This seminar will help prepare attendees to make healthcare decisions in accordance with Church teachings. This seminar is directed to all age groups because unexpected critical illness and end-of-life situations can happen to us without warning at any age. Who will decide treatment choices for you if you cannot? What does the Church teach about care during the most vulnerable times in our lives? The Dignity of Life Seminar offers you peace of mind with answers to these important questions.

To register, call (301) 412-1909 or go to <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/dignity-of-life-seminar-tickets-42023620781>. For more information visit the Information Desk in the Gathering Space. *An initiative of the SFA Health Ministry.*

JOIN OTHER CATHOLICS IN ANNAPOLIS TO LOBBY ON HUMAN RIGHTS, RIGHT-TO-LIFE ISSUES

Are you interested in taking positions on human rights and right-to-life issues that will be coming before the Maryland General Assembly this year? Then, consider joining Cardinal Donald Wuerl and the Maryland Catholic Conference for Catholics in Annapolis on Thursday, February 22 from 3-8 p.m.

The event is a prime opportunity for the Archdiocese of Washington, the Maryland Catholic Conference and Catholics from across the archdiocese to express a singular, coordinated voice on the legislative agenda and policies Maryland's elected state officials will be considering in the state capitol during the upcoming legislative session. Some of the issues delegates will be considering in the upcoming session include assisted suicide, taxpayer funding for abortion, child protection and educational choice and opportunity.

If you are interested in attending with a group from St. Francis, please contact Social Concerns Minister Tony Bosnick at abosnick@sfiadw.org or church Administrative Assistant Marie Yeast at mffy313@aol.com.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS/EVENTS

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!

COFFEE & DOUGHNUTS TO BE SERVED AFTER TWO MASSES ON JANUARY 21

The St. Francis Brew Crew will serve coffee, doughnuts and juice after the 9:30 a.m. and 11:15 a.m. Masses on Sunday, January 21, in the Gathering Space. Come join us for fellowship! If you'd like to join the Brew Crew, contact Sylvia Jones, coordinator of the St. Francis Brew Crew Ministry, at decaffqueen@gmail.com.

YOUTH MINISTRY NEWS/EVENTS

ST. FRANCIS YOUTH MINISTRY

Upcoming Events

FRED

JANUARY

- 21 Be Virtuous - John 10:10: "I came so that they may have life, and have it abundantly."
28 Be Just - Matthew 22:36: "Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?"

FEBRUARY

- 4 Souper Bowl of Caring
11 Be Healed - Luke 5:23: "Which is easier, to say, 'Your sins are forgiven you,' or to say, 'Stand up and walk?'"

GET SOCIAL

Follow us on Instagram & Twitter @ SFAFRED.

CHILDREN'S HOLY HOUR

Monthly Children's Holy Hour: Hosted by St. Peter's Catholic Church, Olney. Children of ALL ages, alongside their parents, are invited to join us Friday, January 26th from 4:00-5:00 p.m. in the Chapel at St. Peter's to pray in front of the Blessed Sacrament through Scripture, song and quiet reflection. Opportunities for confession available. Snacks provided following the Holy Hour. Save the date for February's Family Pizza Night following Children's Holy Hour on Friday, February 23rd.

POPE FRANCIS CHALLENGES CATHOLICS TO KNOW AND LOVE THE POOR DURING POVERTY AWARENESS MONTH

In accepting Pope Francis' challenge to live in solidarity with the poor, the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) has declared January as Poverty Awareness Month. Together, with the Catholic Campaign for Human Development, the bishops have developed a daily calendar of reflections for Catholics to read and consider as they discern their role in helping the poor among us. Find the calendar and other Poverty Awareness Month resources on the USCCB web site at <http://www.usccb.org/about/catholic-campaign-for-human-development/poverty-education/poverty-awareness-month.cfm>.

For more information about Poverty Awareness Month, contact Social Concerns Minister Tony Bosnick at abosnick@sfadw.org.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF ENSLAVED MEN AND WOMEN

You are invited to join Cardinal Wuerl in honoring the memory of enslaved men and women who, during the period when slavery was legal, were buried in unmarked graves throughout what is now the Archdiocese of Washington. This special Mass will be celebrated on Saturday, February 3 at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception at 5:15 p.m. To learn more about this event please visit www.adw.org.

A THANK YOU FROM THE SPIRIT TREE GIVING CAMPAIGN

St. Francis parishioners, please see the following thank you from the Pope Francis Outreach Center and clergy at Assumption Parish of the Blessed Virgin Mary in Washington DC, acknowledging St. Francis parishioners' generosity during the Spirit Giving Tree campaign during Advent:

*Dear Parishioners of St. Francis of Assisi,
Thank you so much. Again, you made the parents and children very happy. When the [presents] returned to the outreach center after Christmas, there were lots of smiles. Some parents [boasted] about the excitement from their children on Christmas Day. You brought a lot of smiles from your hard work. Thank you for your continuous support of the Pope Francis Outreach Center.*

*Fr. Gregory Shaffer, Pastor
Assumption Church of the Blessed Virgin Mary*

*Mildred Brown, Director
Pope Francis Outreach Center*

YOU CAN HELP YOUR MARRIAGE

Do you feel alone? Are you frustrated or angry with each other? Do you argue ... or have you just stopped talking to each other? Does talking about it only make it worse? Retrouvaille (pronounced retro-vi with a long i) helps couples through difficult times in their marriages. This program has helped 10's of 1000's of couples experiencing difficulties in their marriage. 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

ST. MARTIN'S WOMEN OF PRAYER

We invite all women of the Parish ages 18 and above to join us. We gather as Catholic women to learn more about our faith and support each other on our daily journeys through friendship and prayer. Our next event is on Saturday, February 10, immediately after the 9:00 a.m. Mass downstairs in the Parish Hall. Father Jonathan will give a talk on the "Reflection on the Liturgy of Ash Wednesday." Information can also be found on the Women of Prayer website: <http://www.thewomenofprayer.org/>. If you have any questions, please contact Rose Churilla (Rozanne7@comcast.net).

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 28 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

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.

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK (CSW): LEARN. SERVE. LEAD. SUCCEED.

CSW is an annual celebration of Catholic education in the United States. SJRCS will observe CSW week with Masses, open house and other activities for students, families, parishioners and community members. Through these events, we focus on the value Catholic education provides to young people and its contributions to Church, local communities and the nation.

Catholic Schools Week Schedule

- January 27 at 5:00 p.m. - Opening Mass at Shrine of St. Jude
- January 28 at 9:30 a.m. - Opening Mass at St. Francis of Assisi
- January 29 8:30am - Volunteer coffee
- January 30- Service day
- January 31- Open house 9-11:30am /6-8pm
- February 1- Family lunch
- February 2- 9:00am closing Mass/International day/12:00 dismissal-teacher appreciation day

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

CHRISTIAN UNITY SERVICE

Sunday, January 28 - 3:00 p.m.

Shrine of St. Jude Catholic Church

12701 Veirs Mill Road, Rockville MD

The Shrine of St. Jude will host the 24th annual Montgomery County Christian Unity Service at which Catholic, Protestant, and Orthodox congregations will come together in song, scripture, and prayer in fulfillment of the Lord's will "that all may be one." The theme of the 2018 Week of Prayer for Christian Unity - *Your Right Hand, O Lord, Glorious in Power* was developed by the Churches in the Carribean. Fr. Paul Lee will preside, Reverend Jeff Jones, Pastor of North Bethesda United Methodist Church will preach.