



Mass Intentions

January 8 - January 14

Monday, 1/8	9:00 a.m. Sarah Seyed-Ali (L)
Tuesday, 1/9	9:00 a.m. Maureen Hurley (L)
Wednesday, 1/10	9:00 a.m. Deacon Robert L. Connelly 7:30 p.m. Reverend Arne Panula
Thursday, 1/11	9:00 a.m. Nelson Salcedo, Sr.
Friday, 1/12	9:00 a.m. Betty Ferranti
Saturday, 1/13	9:00 a.m. Adela Canino 5:00 p.m. Rosemarie Rippel
Sunday, 1/14	8:00 a.m. <i>Pro populo</i> 9:30 a.m. Don Smith 11:15 a.m. Stella Battista 5:00 p.m. Marwan Saah

+ In Memoriam Aeternam +

In your charity, please pray for the repose of the souls of Jane Lakebrink, sister of Ed Dudenhoeffer, Shirley Brockett, wife of Lee Brockett.

Please pray for the sick...Lillie Coker, Bernard Kohan, Dick Hunt, Guy Beaven, Dennis Parnell, 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 7, 2018

Monday:	Is 42:1-4, 6-7/Is 12:2-3, 4bcd, 5-6 [3]/ Mk 1:7-11
Tuesday:	1 Sm 1:9-20/1 Sm 2:1, 4-5, 6-7, 8abcd [cf. 1]/ Mk 1:21-28 /1 Sm 2:1, 4-5, 6-7, 8abcd [cf. 1]/ Mk 1:14-20 and 1:21-28
Wednesday:	1 Sm 3:1-10, 19-20/Ps 40:2 and 5, 7-8a, 8b-9, 10 [8a and 9a]/Mk 1:29-39
Thursday:	1 Sm 4:1-11/Ps 44:10-11, 14-15, 24-25 [27b]/ Mk 1:40-45
Friday:	1 Sm 8:4-7, 10-22a/Ps 89:16-17, 18-19 [2]/ Mk 2:1-12
Saturday:	1 Sm 9:1-4, 17-19; 10:1a/Ps 21:2-3, 4-5, 6-7 [2a]/Mk 2:13-17
Next 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

THE MUSINGS OF THE PASTOR

As we begin this New Year I want to begin a series in which I discuss some things that parents can do to strengthen the knowledge and practice of the faith in their homes. As a basis for these reflections, I am going to use a tool that the Archdiocesan Office of Religious Education prepared in 2011: *Forming Disciples for the New Evangelization*. Here is the link for those who want to read the whole document: <http://adw.org/forming-disciples/>.

Today I intend to provide some ideas for the parents of preschool children. Many parents have asked for suggestions on ways they can strengthen the knowledge and practice of the Catholic faith in their homes. 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 preschool children 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 preschool children 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 preschool children 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.

Key Element IV: Prayer. Parents of preschool children 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.

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

The Epiphany of the Lord

QUESTION OF THE WEEK

Is there something I realized that I changed after encountering the Lord? Is there something I realize now that I should change?

ALTERNATIVE CHRISTMAS 2017

Many thanks to all who contributed to our Alternative Christmas Program. Through your kind generosity, we collected \$12,950 to support the works of our participating charities in the DC Metro area, in Haiti and throughout the world. ~ *Pat O'Connor & Doris Chung.*

RESPECT LIFE

Thank you to all the parishioners who recently supported Right to Life of Montgomery County by purchasing Christmas cards or simply making a donation. Our generous parishioners raised \$179 for this local organization that spreads a pro-life message to area middle and high schools.

2017 CHRISTMAS TREE SALES SETS NEW RECORDS!

Yet again, St. Francis had a record breaking Christmas season selling approximately **400** Frasier Fir Christmas Trees and earned an outstanding profit of over **\$13,600** (7% increase over last year) for the parish. This year, approximately 70 different parishioners and individuals braved the outdoor elements and logging countless hours of volunteer and community student service learning hours.

I especially want to recognize our TEAM leaders *Wayne Burnside, Gary DeBalso, Damien Clark, Tom Steffes* whose selfless sacrifice and gracious supply donations ensured our record success, and *Carolyn Brauer* whose team of wreath decorators made **72** stunningly beautiful wreathes that sold out quickly! Also, through the generosity of our customers, we were able raise a record **\$1,280** (18% increase over last year) in **tip money** that will be donated to needy families that the parish selects. Thank you to everyone who contributed in making the St. Francis Christmas Tree enterprise the continued success that it is.

~ *Brian Pettit, Christmas Tree Sales Coordinator*

CATHOLIC CHARITIES COAT DRIVE TO KICK OFF ON JANUARY 13/14

Next weekend, the St. Francis Social Concerns Ministry will be collecting gently used coats, mittens, gloves, scarves and hats for the Catholic Charities Coat Collection. Please put these winter items in the designated receptacle before and after Masses the weekend of January 13/14. New winter gear is also much appreciated. For more information, contact Social Concerns Minister Tony Bosnick at abosnick@sfadw.org.

THE MUSINGS OF THE PASTOR *continued*

Key Element V: Education for Living in the Christian Community. Parents of preschool children 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 preschool children 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

THE NEIGHBOR TO NEIGHBOR TEAM NEEDS YOU!

The Neighbor to Neighbor Team needs each parishioner's help to reach out to individuals and families moving into the neighborhoods around St. Francis of Assisi Parish. In November, the team mailed out postcards to 1,800 households, whose occupants moved into the area within the past year and invited them to join us for many of the Advent and Christmas events and activities at St. Francis. Every month, the team will be mailing out a new postcard to new people who have moved in to the area. (Copies are available at the Information Desk). A special Lent/Easter postcard is also in the works. So, what can you do?

- ***If you see a new person at St. Francis, introduce yourself.*** Oh, you may find it is someone who has been at St. Francis awhile and you just haven't met. But, now that you've met, you have started to make a new friend. It could be also someone coming to St. Francis for the first time and your warm welcome may encourage them to come back next week.
- ***If someone moves into your neighborhood, introduce yourself or at least provide them with an invitation card*** (available at the Information Desk). You may find out that they already have a church to which they go. No matter – you will have still made a first contact with a new neighbor. If they are looking for a church to attend, you have made a first introduction. The Holy Spirit will do the rest.
- ***If you want to join the Neighbor to Neighbor Team.*** We can always use help to engage our new neighbors and “get them to try us out.” We will also be working on reaching out to formerly active parishioners and inviting them to get re-involved with the parish.
- ***Pray Daily.*** Pray daily that those moving into the St. Francis area will find a place to worship our Lord and Savior and not be lost in the wilderness of the secular society in which we live.

For more information about the Neighbor to Neighbor Team, contact Deacon Dan Finn at deacondanfinn@gmail.com.

LAMB OF GOD PRAYER MEETING Join the Lamb of God Prayer Group for worship and the study of Scripture on Tuesday, January 9, 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 Shady Grove Pregnancy Center*. 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.

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](mailto:Monica.Ludwig@diocese.org) 301-924-2285 ext. 315 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.

MAKE SMALL GROUP PARTICIPATING A NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION YOU KEEP

How's this for a statistic? One hundred percent of the parishioners who participated last year in a Lenten Small Group and completed an evaluation said they would like to see St. Francis continue to offer Small Groups. Here's what some of them said about the experience:

- I connected names and faces to people after years of awkwardly smiling and nodding at church events.
- I 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.
- I 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.
- The Intimacy and sharing within a small group

Make a commitment to join a Small Group this year and if you can't find one that suits you, we will help you form one.

LENTEEN SMALL GROUPS BEGINNING MID-FEBRUARY

More than 80 parishioners participated in our Lenten Small Groups earlier this year. The Small Groups Ministry hopes to double that number in 2018. We will be using *Live Lent!* Pope Francis tells us *"Lent is a new beginning, a path leading to the certain goal of Easter, Christ's victory over death. This season urgently calls you to conversion. Christians are asked to return to God with all their hearts, to refuse to settle for mediocrity and to grow in friendship with the Lord. Jesus is the faith friend who never abandons us."*

Live Lent! includes Sunday reflections and prayers for a Small Group to use for inspiration in contemplating the next Sunday's Gospel readings. It also includes daily meditations. So, take the opportunity and embrace *Live Lent!*, so you can live a more authentic faith long after those 40 days have passed.

JOIN A NEW SMALL GROUP

In addition to the Lenten Small Groups, a new group **Food for the Body and Soul** is forming. The group will rotate monthly to share a meal and discuss faith in a parishioner's home. As Fr. Leo Patalinghug has said, "the simple act of creating and sharing a meal can strengthen all kinds of relationships."

START A SMALL GROUP

Don't see a group that interests you? Start a small group with a specific focus. We ask that the goal of each Small Group is to Make Friends, Make Disciples and Make a Difference. Please contact Small Group Coordinator Alice Welanetz via e-mail at awelanetz@gmail.com, so she can help get you started.

JOIN AN EXISTING SMALL GROUP

Please see the following page for a list of the Small Groups that are ongoing.....

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS/EVENTS

RE CLASS SCHEDULE REMINDERS

Religious Education classes resume this week: January 7, 8 and 9. Please note that Religious Education classes will not meet next 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 p.m. in the Parish Center.

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.

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.

YOUTH MINISTRY NEWS/EVENTS

ST. FRANCIS YOUTH MINISTRY *Upcoming Events*

FRED

JANUARY

First Meeting in 2018 is January 14th!

GET SOCIAL

Follow us on Instagram & Twitter @ SFAFRED.

EXISTING SMALL GROUPS AT ST. FRANCIS (continued)

There are many existing small groups that are ready to welcome new members. They include:

- **Catholic Perspectives on the Vietnam War** – The Pax Christi Group invites all St. Francis parishioners, but particularly active and retired military personnel, to view a 10-part series on the Vietnam War and consider the impacts the war had on their lives and Catholic social teaching.
- **Martha/Mary Women's Group** - Women who meet bi-weekly on Wednesdays, read aloud books chosen by the group and then discuss.
- **Men of Emmaus (a.k.a. the Church Guys)** – Men who meet Saturday mornings for faith, fellowship and relaxed discussion of Scripture and other spiritual writings, including how to live the faith as Catholic men.
- **Pivotal Players Small Group** – Groups meet weekly over 12 weeks to discuss Bishop Robert Barron's Pivotal Players Series, an in-depth look at the Catholic Church's most influential people. The next offering will be in the fall of 2018.
- **Psalmody** – A small group of parishioners who seek a group prayer experience through ensemble singing and playing of instruments. All that is needed is the desire to join with others in song as a means of prayer.
- **Saturday Morning Spiritual Reading Group** – A diverse group that meets Saturday mornings to study and discuss books that are selected by the group. The books read this past year have ranged from *Dante's Inferno*, the first part of Dante Alighieri's 14th-century epic poem *Divine Comedy*, and C.S. Lewis' *Four Loves*.
- **Scripture Study Class** – All are welcome to meet for six-week sessions on Wednesday nights, focusing on books by the Loyola Press Bible Series.
- **Sunday Mass Preparation Small Group** – Groups meet weekly over a six-week period or longer to read and discuss the coming week's readings and be better prepared for Mass.

For information on any of these existing small groups please contact Alice Welanetz, awelanetz@gmail.com. She can put you in touch with the contact person within the small group.

Spotlight on St. Jude Regional Catholic School

Catch our Spirit

www.StJudeRockville.org

<http://www.facebook.com/stjuderockvillemd>

3rd Annual SJRCS International Day!

We invite you to travel...

All Over the World!

Friday, February 2nd at 10:00 am

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 or would like additional information, please contact Mrs. Balog Katharine.Balog@StJudeRockville.org.

LUAU GALA – MARCH 10, 2018

The Gala committee is pleased to announce a new addition for this year's Luau Gala. Thanks to Criswell Motors for their generosity and the efforts of Sherry Koehler, we will be raffling off a 2017 Jeep Renegade Sport 4x4! • Tickets are \$50 each • Winner will be drawn at the Gala on March 10, 2018 • Winners need not be present to win, so let your friends and family know and have an opportunity to win • Tickets can be purchased at the Main Office or online at www.stjuderockville.org.

COLLECTION FOR CHURCH MISSIONS IN THE UNITED STATES

On the weekend of January 13-14, the Archdiocese of Washington will take up a 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.

4 STAGES OF MARRIAGE

The 4 stages of marriage are: (1) Romance, (2) Disillusionment, (3) Misery, and (4) Awakening. Many marriages experience the first 3 Stages. Marriages that end in divorce never make it to the 4th Stage of Awakening. Don't give up without learning about the 4th Stage of Awakening. If your marriage suffers from Disillusionment or Misery please contact Retrouvaille (pronounced retro-vi with a long i). Our next weekend is January 26 - 28, 2018. All calls and inquiries are confidential. To register or obtain more information visit our website at: www.HelpOurMarriage.com, call (443) 400-7017, or email: 3015@retrouvaille.org

MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. ANNUAL CELEBRATION

All are welcome to the annual archdiocesan Celebration of the Legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. on Saturday, January 13 at St. Joseph Church in Largo, MD. This year's celebration will include the screening and discussion of the documentary film *13th* at 1:30 p.m. Praise and Worship will follow at 4:30 p.m., featuring the Gospel Mass Choir, and Mass at 5:00 p.m. will be celebrated by Bishop Roy Campbell. *13th* is a powerful film that explores the history of race and the criminal justice system in the United States. This will be a great opportunity to mark the beginning of educated, continuous, and courageous conversations that will help to build respect and solidarity within our communities and convey God's boundless love for all the human family. For more information, contact the Office of Cultural Diversity and Outreach at 301-853 -5335 or culturaldiversity@adw.org.

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.

MOTHER TERESA VOCATION SOCIETY ANNUAL DAY OF RECOLLECTION

On Saturday, January 20, 2018, from 9:30 a.m.-2:00 p.m., Fr. Mark Ivany, Director of Priest Vocations for the Archdiocese of Washington, will lead a day of recollection at Annunciation Church in Washington, DC (3810 Massachusetts Ave., NW). The day will include Mass, a talk, Adoration, and an opportunity for Confession. Lunch will be served, and donations are welcomed. It is not required to be an MTVS member to attend this event! For more information, please visit www.dcpriest.org or contact Maris Moriarty at moriarty@adw.org or 202-636-9020.

YOU DON'T DESERVE TO BE ABUSED

Domestic violence refers to a pattern of violent and coercive behavior by one adult over another in an intimate relationship. It can consist of repeated severe beatings or subtle forms of abuse, including threats and control. If you experience any form of abuse, please know that there is help. Call the National Domestic Violence Hotline at 1-800-799-7233. To learn more about domestic violence, please visit www.catholiccharitiesdc.org/familypeace.

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.