



Mass Intentions

February 5 - February 11

Monday, 2/5	9:00 a.m. Deacon Adrien Picard
Tuesday, 2/6	9:00 a.m. David Oakes
Wednesday, 2/7	9:00 a.m. Laura Wallen 7:30 p.m. Roderic O'Connor & Fernando Silva
Thursday, 2/8	9:00 a.m. James Galvin
Friday, 2/9	9:00 a.m. Gemma Palini
Saturday, 2/10	9:00 a.m. Laura Wallen 5:00 p.m. <i>Pro populo</i>
Sunday, 2/11	8:00 a.m. Millie Cosman (L) 9:30 a.m. Gemma Palini 11:15 a.m. Fr. Gerry Creedon 5:00 p.m. Mary Gail O'Kelly

+ In Memoriam Aeternam +

In your charity, please pray for the repose of the souls of Helen M. Watkinson and Dulce LeJarde.

Please pray for the sick....Dick Hunt, Dennis Parnell, Ed Dudenhoefter, Bob Coyne, Evelyn Haddad, Calvin Speaks, Mark Trickett, Geri 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 February 4, 2018

Sunday:	Jb 7:1-4, 6-7/Ps 147:1-2, 3-4, 5-6 [cf. 3a]/1 Cor 9:16-19, 22-23/Mk 1:29-39
Monday:	1 Kgs 8:1-7, 9-13/Ps 132:6-7, 8-10 [8a]/Mk 6:53-56
Tuesday:	1 Kgs 8:22-23, 27-30/Ps 84:3, 4, 5 and 10, 11 [2]/Mk 7:1-13
Wednesday:	1 Kgs 10:1-10/Ps 37:5-6, 30-31, 39-40 [30a]/Mk 7:14-23
Thursday:	1 Kgs 11:4-13/Ps 106:3-4, 35-36, 37 and 40 [4a]/Mk 7:24-30
Friday:	1 Kgs 11:29-32; 12:19/Ps 81:10-11ab, 12-13, 14-15 [11a and 9a]/Mk 7:31-37
Saturday:	1 Kgs 12:26-32; 13:33-34/Ps 106:6-7ab, 19-20, 21-22 [4a]/Mk 8:1-10
Next Sunday:	Lv 13:1-2, 44-46/Ps 32:1-2, 5, 11 [7]/1 Cor 10:31-11:1/Mk 1:40-45

THE MUSINGS OF THE PASTOR

Last week I gave some advice to parents of children who are in the primary or early elementary level (grades 1-3) 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 intermediate elementary school level. This would include students in the fourth, fifth, and sixth grades.

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. The willingness of parents to grow in their understanding of faith issues models for their children the belief that growth in faith is a lifelong process. Parents seek opportunities to share their faith with other adults as well as with their children. Parents take the time necessary to answer informal questions as they arise or research unknown answers with the child, using Scripture or the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* when appropriate. Families actively participate in the life of the parish.

Key Element II: Liturgy and Sacraments. Parents help to deepen their children's understanding of sacraments by regular and active participation in sacramental celebrations followed by conversation about the experience. Participation in communal celebrations of the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation and other opportunities for reconciliation and weekly Sunday liturgy are particularly important for the intermediate child and his or her family.

Key Element III: Morality. Parents help their children learn to make right choices through dialogue about routine decisions. Respect and appreciation for ourselves and others are communicated when parents show respect and appreciation for their children. Participation in the responsibilities of family life teaches intermediate students the value of Christian service and a wholesome moral life. It cannot be emphasized enough, that good moral and apostolic actions by the parents teach children how to act.

Key Element IV: Prayer. Parents speak most clearly about the importance of prayer when their children see them pray. Parental example speaks volumes that words cannot match. The prayer life of children is enriched by praying at home and at regular parish celebrations of liturgy and sacraments.

Key Element V: Education for Living in the Christian Community. Children are now capable of taking on more responsibility and ownership of their faith life while still needing clear guidance from their parents. Allowing children to participate more fully in parish life and highlighting the ways they live a virtuous life in them helps them to realize that they are blessed by God with gifts and talents to share with the large parish community.

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

Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

QUESTION OF THE WEEK

What does it mean to be a disciple? How do I serve God and serve others?

ASH WEDNESDAY

Mass Schedule – February 14

9:00 a.m. 12:00 Noon 6:00 p.m. 7:30 p.m.

LENTEN SCHEDULE

Daily Mass: Mon thru Sat 9:00 a.m.
Wed 7:30 p.m.
Our Lady of Perpetual Help Novena follows
Wednesday Evening Mass

Lenten Evening Prayer Friday Evenings 6:40 p.m.
Stations of the Cross Friday Evenings 7:00 p.m.

Confession: In addition to Saturday afternoon, Confessions will be heard each Wednesday evening during Lent before Mass 6:00 –7:30 p.m. **(The Light is ON for you.)**

Confession will also be heard 30 minutes before Daily Mass and Sunday Masses during Lent.

LENTEN REGULATIONS

Fasting: Ages 18-59 fast on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday, limiting themselves to one full meal.

Abstinence: Catholics age 14 and older abstain from meat on Ash Wednesday, Good Friday and all the Fridays of Lent.

SUMMARY OF LENTEN ACTIVITIES

This Lenten season, ministries at St. Francis of Assisi Parish will be hosting many activities and events to help parishioners reflect on the life, death and Resurrection of Christ. There are several activities that will provide joyful fellowship, quiet reflection and the opportunity to learn more deeply about our Christian faith. Please see this list for many of the activities being sponsored by or promoted by St. Francis ministries:

- *Lenten Small Groups*, meet starting the week of February 11, at parishioners' homes. Small group members read and reflect on *Live Lent!*, a booklet published by Renew International. Sign up in the Gathering Space through February 4.
- *Shrove Pancake Supper*, Tuesday, February 13, 5-8 p.m. in the Parish Center. Come enjoy pancakes and breakfast fixings to kick off the start of Lent.
- *40 Days for Life*, February 14-March 25, 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. everyday outside Leroy Carhart's abortion clinic in the Wildwood Medical Center, 10401 Old Georgetown Road. Come pray and keep vigil for mothers and children. For more information, contact Jill Perry at (301) 924-3838, Ext. 204 or socialconcerns@mothersetonparish.org.
- Distribution of Catholic Relief Services Rice Bowls to all students attending Religious Education. The Rice Bowls will also be made available in the Gathering Space. For more information: <https://www.crsricebowl.org/>.
- *Offering of the Sacrament of Penance* for Religious Education students in grades 3-8 during class time.
- *A Lenten Day of Reflection*, Saturday, March 24, after the 9 a.m. Mass.
- *Family Stations of the Cross*, Good Friday, March 30, 1 p.m. in the church. St. Francis parishioners, including children, teenagers and adults, are needed to play the roles of people on Jesus' journey to Golgotha, as well as lector. There will be three rehearsals for the Family Stations of the Cross. If you are interested in taking part in this activity, contact parishioner Pam Kelly at pammycats@msn.com.



OLD PALMS – We will be collecting old palms through Sunday, February 11. Please place your palms in the Palm Collection Box in the Gathering Space.

THE NEXT STEP FOR FLOCKNOTE

*Bring your Smart phones to Mass next
Sunday, February 10/11.
We'll tell you why there!*

THE MUSINGS OF THE PASTOR (continued)

Key Element VI: Evangelization and Apostolic Life. Children are learning to articulate their faith better. Parents could ask their children good questions to help stimulate their thoughts. Parents could ask them in simple ways to begin to integrate the faith life with their everyday life and examples of situations they may encounter with their family or friends. These questions help children see how faith impacts their life and equips them to share their faith in a normal and realistic manner.

Until next week,
Fr. John

LAMB OF GOD PRAYER MEETING Join the Lamb of God Prayer Group for worship and the study of Scripture on Tuesday, February 6, 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 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.



FEBRUARY 2018 LUNCH – The St. Francis Lunch Bunch will meet on Wednesday, February 7 at 12:00 Noon at Outta the Way Café, 17503 Redland Road, Derwood (301) 963-6895. If you are planning to attend, please contact Mary Lou Habib and she will save a seat for you, (301) 417-0243.

LENTEN DAY RETREAT AT ST. FRANCIS

Please come to a Lenten Day Retreat on "The Presence of God, A Time of Recollection and Prayer with Saint Elizabeth of the Trinity". Organized by the Secular Carmelite Community in Frederick, this day will be led by Father John Dillon and will be held at St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church, 6701 Muncaster Mill Road Derwood on Saturday February 17, open to all from 10.30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.: bring your family, bring your friends, bring your own lunch. The day will include Mass at 11:00 a.m., two conferences by Father Dillon, Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and participation in the Bible-based experience "Surge in Prayer". Share impromptu discussions, find quiet places for prayer and reflection as you draw closer to the Lord during this season of prayer.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS FREE THROW CHAMPIONSHIP

All boys and girls ages 9 to 14 are invited to participate in the local level competition for the 2018 Knights of Columbus Free Throw Championship. The competition will be held on February 10, 2018 from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. at Mother of God School gym in Gaithersburg. This is a free event and all contestants are recognized for their participation. For entry forms or additional information contact Terry Waters at 301-216-1941 or terry.waters@ccbcc.com.

ANNUAL PANCAKE SUPPER

Tuesday, February 13, 2018

5:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

The Breakfast for Dinner Super Pancake Extravaganza is Tuesday, February 13. The event celebrates Shrove Tuesday which marks the last night before the season of Lent begins. The dinner is breakfast with pancakes, eggs, bacon, sausage, hash browns and too much more breakfast treats too mention.

Breakfast for Dinner begins at 5:00 p.m. and runs to 8:00 p.m.. Adults are \$8, kids 6 - 12 are \$5. Children under 5 eat for free and a family plan is available for \$25. Enjoy a relaxing dinner/breakfast / meal without having to do any dishes.

If you are interested in volunteering, contact Sylvia Jones at 301-762-6564 in the evening.

UPCOMING EVENT ENABLES ATTENDEES TO SHARE CATHOLIC VIEWPOINT WITH STATE LEGISLATORS

If you've ever wanted to express your Catholic viewpoint as it relates to issues coming before the Maryland General Assembly, then the upcoming Catholics in Annapolis event is for you. On Thursday, Feb. 22, the Maryland Catholic Conference will sponsor the 34th annual event that brings Catholics leaders and lay people to meet with Maryland lawmakers to discuss potential issues and policies that may be introduced in the upcoming Maryland General Assembly session. Some of the issues that could come before lawmakers this year include physician-assisted suicide, a statewide minimum wage, expanded sick leave for low-income workers and scholarship assistance to needy students to attend a non-public school.

The event runs from 3-8 p.m. on Feb. 22. Attendees are invited to participate in the following schedule of events:

- 3-4:30 p.m. Briefing at St. John Neumann Mission Church, 620 N. Bestgate Road in Annapolis.
- 5-6:30 p.m. Meeting with state legislators at the Legislative Office Buildings on Rowe Boulevard in Annapolis.
- 6:30-8 p.m. Legislative reception

To pre-register for the event, go to www.mdathcon.org/lobbysnight. As the event approaches, St. Francis Social Concerns Minister Tony Bosnick and staff Administrative Assistant Marie Yeast may help coordinate transportation to Annapolis from St. Francis. If you are interested in attending Catholics in Annapolis but need transportation to the state capital, please contact Tony at abosnick@sfdaw.org or Marie at mffy313@aol.com.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS/EVENTS

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!

CATECHIST MEETING: SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 4

There will be a Catechist Meeting for all catechists today, Sunday, February 4 from 1:00-2:30 p.m. in Room 6 of the Parish Center. The topic for our meeting will be: Catholic Moral Teaching – Questions our Children are Asking. Please join us as we enhance our understanding of the Church's moral teaching and share ideas for responding well to the questions our students are asking.

FIRST EUCHARIST PARENT MEETING

A reminder to families of children preparing to celebrate First Eucharist this year: there will be a First Eucharist Parent Meeting this Wednesday, February 7 from 7:30-9:00 p.m. in the Parish Center. If you have questions, please call the Religious Education Office, 301-258-9193.

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, February 11 from 3:30-4:30 p.m. 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.

FUNERAL HELP NEEDED

Eucharistic Ministers of Holy Communion

We are in need of Eucharistic Ministers of Holy Communion to assist at funerals. This would be during the daytime. Funerals are normally held in the mornings. If you would like to sign-up to be on our list of EMHC's to call, please call the Parish Office, (301) 840-1407.

Arimatheans

We are also in need of Arimatheans to serve at funerals. Members of this Ministry set up for the funeral Mass and assist by serving at the Mass. More members are needed for this Ministry. Training will be given to all new members. To offer your services please talk to Fr. John or call the Parish Office, (301) 840-1407.

YOUTH MINISTRY NEWS/EVENTS

ST. FRANCIS YOUTH MINISTRY Upcoming Events

FRED

FEBRUARY

- 4 Super Bowl Party after 5 p.m. Mass - Youth Room
11 Be Healed - Luke 5:23: "Which is easier, to say, 'Your sins are forgiven you,' or to say, 'Stand up and walk?'"
12-13 FRED Jr.
18 NO FRED - President's Day Weekend
25 Be Humble - James 4:10

MARCH

- 3 Archdiocese of Washington High School Youth Rally @ Catholic University

GET SOCIAL

Follow us on Instagram & Twitter @ SFAFRED.

St. Jude Regional Catholic School

www.StJudeRockville.org

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

Aloha!

ST. JUDE REGIONAL CATHOLIC SCHOOL GALA AND BENEFIT AUCTION

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

S.T.E.M. (Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics)
Through the generosity of supporters like you, SJRCS upgraded classrooms and the computer lab with leading edge equipment and technology including iPads, LCD projectors, and interactive white boards.

It's time to expand on these improvements. Will you help?

The money raised at this year's gala will allow us to convert our current science lab into a **state-of-the-art STEM lab**, providing our students with the tools and programs needed for more hands-on discovery experiences. In the upgraded setting and with new technological integration, the students will apply science concepts they are learning in the classroom and have more opportunities to build, create, design, investigate and grow.

Our Goal: Your contribution will help our children succeed in all facets of STEM. Please consider joining us and helping us reach our goal of raising \$75,000 to upgrade the science lab.

Thank you!

*Silent Auction * Raffles * Live Auction*

*Buffet Dinner * Live Entertainment*

Casual Dress (Hawaiian and Tropical attire encouraged!)

Buy your Jeep Renegade raffle ticket and register on line

TODAY at

www.StJudeRockville.org

Pray for the Work of the St. Vincent de Paul Society

In today's Gospel reading, we find that Jesus would rise very early before dawn and go to a deserted place to pray. Then he went out to preach and to heal. Please pray for the poor and suffering, especially those we meet through our St. Vincent de Paul Society home visits, knowing that you are bringing the love and peace of Jesus to those who live in fear and doubt, loneliness and dread. Thank you for your prayers.

SHARING THE JOURNEY WITH IMMIGRANTS & REFUGEES

St. Francis parishioners interested in learning more about Pope Francis' call to 'Share the Journey with Immigrants and Refugees' may want to attend a lecture at 4 p.m. Monday at Georgetown University. Cardinal Joseph Tobin of Newark, NJ, will be speaking on "Sharing the Journey with Immigrants and Refugees" at 4 p.m. February 5, at Dahlgren Chapel of the Sacred Heart at Georgetown University. During his time as Archbishop of Indianapolis, then-Archbishop Tobin insisted that the Church has a duty to welcome refugees despite then-Gov. Mike Pence's opposition. In a context of prayer and conversation, this Dahlgren Dialogue will explore the religious, moral and human obligations to "welcome the stranger" in these days and times. The dialogue will also include members of the Georgetown community sharing their journey as immigrants and refugees.

INTERFAITH DISCUSSION GROUP TO CONVENE PEOPLE CELEBRATING JEWISH, CHRISTIAN & MUSLIM TRADITIONS

The Faith Community Working Group of Montgomery County and Greater Gaithersburg Interfaith Alliance is teaming up with four local faith communities to sponsor a four-part series of interfaith dialogue and reflection, titled "Abraham's Children." Developed by the Institute for Islamic, Christian and Jewish Studies in Baltimore, "Abraham's Children" offers text study and discussion among members of the three Abrahamic faiths to engage the complexities of what is shared and what is unique in the Jewish, Christian and Muslim traditions.

The four sessions will be held from 7-9 p.m. on Wednesdays in March at the following locations:

- March 7: Church of the Ascension, 205 S. Summit Ave, Gaithersburg, MD 20877
- March 14: Kehilat Shalom, 9915 Apple Ridge Road, Gaithersburg, MD 20886
- March 21: Islamic Center of Maryland, 19411 Woodfield Road, Gaithersburg, MD 20879
- March 28: Tikvat Israel Congregation, 2200 Baltimore Road, Rockville, MD 20851

For more information or to register, e-mail Richard Lederman at ledermanrc@gmail.com or call him at (240) 441-8074

DIGNITY OF LIFE SEMINAR

FEBRUARY 17, 2018 9:30 a.m.-12:00 Noon
Knights of Columbus FATHER CUDDY HALL
17001 Overhill Rd, Derwood, MD 20855

The Dignity of Life Seminar featuring ethicist Father Daniel Mindling takes place on February 17. This seminar prepares you 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. Registration: 301 412-1909 or register online at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/dignity-of-life-seminar-tickets-42023620781>.

SFA Health Ministry

Encouraging health and wellness in body, mind and spirit

February is National Heart Health Month

Blood Pressure Screening February 10/11

High blood pressure usually has no symptoms so it can only be identified by having your blood pressure measured. The SFA Health Ministry monthly blood pressure screening takes place next weekend, February 10/11 after the Saturday 5:00 p.m., Sunday 8:00 a.m., 9:30 a.m. and 11:15 Masses. Treating high blood pressure reduces your risk for heart attack, heart failure and kidney failure.

Tips for healthy blood pressure

Eat a heart healthy diet. Maintain normal body weight. Manage stress through exercise, prayer, relaxation. Nurture healthy, positive relationships. Take blood pressure medication as prescribed.

Go Red For Women is the American Heart Association's national movement devoted to ending heart disease and stroke in women because more women than men die every year from heart disease. The Go Red For Women Movement saves women's lives through research, advocacy and the promotion of heart healthy lifestyle education. Eighty percent of cardiac events can be prevented with education and lifestyle changes. To learn more about what you can do to prevent heart disease and live a heart healthy lifestyle see the GO RED literature in the Gathering Space and visit www.goredforwomen.org and www.americanheartassociation.org.

Celebrate Heart Health Month at the 11th Annual Heart Education and Screening Event

Featuring FREE health screenings, informative lectures, raffle prizes
Saturday, February 24, 2018 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.
Holy Cross Hospital, Germantown
19801 Observation Drive, Germantown, MD 20876
REGISTRATION (required) Call 301-745-8800

Staying Well at St. Francis during Flu Season

Preventive actions such as getting the flu vaccine, staying away from people who are sick, covering coughs and sneezes, and frequent hand washing help slow the spread of germs that cause respiratory illnesses like the flu.

Because flu viruses can spread when people with flu cough, sneeze, or talk it is advisable to stay home when you are ill. Parishioners with an acute, influenza-like illness—sudden onset of fever, sore throat, cough, muscle aches, fatigue—should not come to church. Likewise, even if you are well it is appropriate to refrain from receiving the Eucharist from the cup or shaking hands at Mass because a person might also get flu by touching a surface or object that has flu virus on it and then touching their own mouth, nose, or possibly their eyes. One can spread the flu virus even before one develops symptoms.

MASS WITH HEALING PRAYERS FOR CHILDREN & FAMILIES

All families are welcome as we celebrate a teaching Mass with Healing Prayers for Children and Families at St. Andrew Apostle in Silver Spring on Friday, February 9 at 6:30 pm. Following a teaching mass for children, families will be invited forward to kneel together before Our Lord in adoration, and the children will receive healing prayers through the priesthood. Confession will also be available throughout the evening. Please visit <https://standrewapostle.org/worship/masses-with-healing-prayers/>.