



Mass Intentions

March 19 - March 25

Monday: 3/19	9:00 a.m. Martin Almodovar
Tuesday, 3/20	9:00 a.m. Reverend John Stack
Wednesday, 3/21	9:00 a.m. Gina Steenson 7:30 p.m. Anastacia Meneses
Thursday, 3/22	9:00 a.m. Reverend Edward Evans
Friday, 3/23	9:00 a.m. Nieves Diano
Saturday, 3/24	9:00 a.m. Helen Mooney 5:00 p.m. Selwyn DeSouza
Sunday, 3/25	8:00 a.m. <i>Pro populo</i> 9:30 a.m. Juan Asuncion, Jr. 11:15 a.m. Lynn Krafchik 5:00 p.m. Michael Paul Mroczka

Please pray for the sick.... Jack Price, Dennis Parnell, Bernard Kohan, Rocco Prologo, Gladys Hummer, Geri Trickett, Jack Valy, Patty Valy, Michael J. White, Cheryl Rickerds, Ed Dudenhoefter, Bob Coyne, Evelyn Haddad, Mark 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 March 18, 2018

Sunday:	Jer 31:31-34/Ps 51:3-4, 12-13, 14-15 [12a]/ Heb 5:7-9/Jn 12:20-33
Monday:	2 Sm 7:4-5a, 12-14a, 16/Ps 89:2-3, 4-5, 27, 29 [37]/Rom 4:13, 16-18, 22/Mt 1:16, 18-21, 24a
Tuesday:	Nm 21:4-9/Ps 102:2-3, 16-18, 19-21 [2]/ Jn 8:21-30
Wednesday:	Dn 3:14-20, 91-92, 95/Dn 3: 52, 53, 54, 55, 56 [52b]/Jn 8:31-42
Thursday:	Gn 17:3-9/Ps 105:4-5, 6-7, 8-9 [8a]/Jn 8:51-59
Friday:	Jer 20:10-13/Ps 18:2-3a, 3bc-4, 5-6, 7 [cf. 7]/ Jn 10:31-42
Saturday:	Ez 37:21-28/Jer 31:10, 11-12abcd, 13 [cf. 10d]/ Jn 11:45-56
Next Sunday:	Mk 11:1-10 or Jn 12:12-16/Is 50:4-7/Ps 22:8-9, 17-18, 19-20, 23-24 [2a]/Phil 2:6-11/ Mk 14:1-15:47

THE MUSINGS OF THE PASTOR

Cardinal Wuerl promulgated a Pastoral Plan to implement Pope Francis' post-synodal apostolic exhortation, *Amoris Laetitia*, on Sunday March 4, 2018. I am going to devote several columns to this Pastoral Plan, as Cardinal Wuerl hopes that parishes, priests, deacons, religious, and laity will reflect on the following:

- The richness of the Church's perennial teaching on love, marriage, family, faith, and mercy.
- The essential aspect of pastoral ministry, called accompaniment
- Several significant themes such as the New Evangelization, the role of conscience, and the privileged place of the parish where we find and experience Christ's way of living and loving.

In this column today I want to continue the presentation of the points in the Executive Summary of the Cardinal's Pastoral Plan for implementing *Amoris Laetitia*.

Conscience

At the core of accompanying people on the faith journey and helping them appropriate the church's teaching stands the humble recognition that the culpability of any of us does not depend solely on exposure to the teaching. It is not enough simply to hear the teaching. We have to be helped to grasp and accept it. We must have "experiential" and not just "objective" moral knowledge, to use the language of Saint John Paul II in his encyclical letter, *Veritatis Splendor (The Splendor of Truth)*. Priests are called to respect the decisions made in conscience by individuals who act in good faith since no one can enter the soul of another and make that judgment for them. As Pope Francis teaches, "We have been called to form consciences, not to replace them" (AL, 37).

The Importance of Parish Life

As Pope Francis notes in *Amoris Laetitia*, the Church is a family of families, and the home of pastoral accompaniment is the parish. The parish has a central role in making clear the Gospel vision for marriage and family life. For this reason, the Pastoral Plan concludes by offering a wide variety of resources and suggestions on how to implement the ministry of accompaniment at the parish level. Our parishes, as sites where people most experience the life of the Church, must be places of welcome, where everyone is invited, particularly anyone who might be disillusioned or disaffected by contemporary society or even by our faith community.

Conclusion

Amoris Laetitia is a call to compassionate accompaniment in helping all to experience Christ's love and mercy. Neither the exhortation nor this Pastoral Plan presents a list of answers to each individual human concern. Rather, both call for a pastoral approach to many people—married, single, and divorced—who are struggling to face issues in life, the teaching of the Church, and their own desire to reconcile this.

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

Fifth Sunday in Lent

QUESTION OF THE WEEK

What "burial brands" restrict the Spirit within me and need to be untied? Am I sometimes guilty of selfishness, pride, dishonesty, deceit, exclusion, or mean-spiritedness? Am I willing to overcome these barriers to the Spirit?

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 (3:30-4:30 p.m.), 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.

RCIA

The third scrutiny will be celebrated today at the Sunday evening Mass. The scrutinies are rites of self-searching and repentance for those seeking initiation into the Catholic faith at the Easter Vigil. They are meant to uncover, then heal all that is weak or sinful in the hearts of the elect; and to bring out, then strengthen all that is upright, strong and good. Today's Gospel reading of Lazarus will fill the spirit of the Elect with Christ the Redeemer, who is the resurrection and the life. During our Lenten journey, we should use the scrutinies of the Elect to prepare ourselves for Easter. Please, continue to pray for our Elect, Joshua Gardner, David O'Steen, Mateo Choza, Ayana Choza, Sydnie Brown and our Candidates, Annalee Antalan, Jeremy Byamugisha.

THE MUSINGS OF THE PASTOR (continued)

Conclusion (continued)

As we carry out our pastoral responsibilities, and share the joy of love in marriage and family life, we thank God first of all for the call and then for the guidance that we receive from his Holy Church and particularly from our Holy Father, Pope Francis.

Thus ends the Executive Summary of the Archdiocesan Pastoral Plan for implementing *Amoris Laetitia* in the Archdiocese of Washington. After Easter I plan to take up in this column some of the resources and suggestions on how to implement the ministry of accompaniment at the parish level.

Until next week,
Fr. John Dillon

PARISH PENANCE SERVICE
MONDAY, MARCH 19, 7:00 P.M.
With Visiting Confessors



HOLY WEEK/EASTER SCHEDULE

HOLY THURSDAY – March 29

9:00 a.m. Morning Prayer (Church)
7:30 p.m. Mass of the Lord's Supper
Adoration until 10:00 p.m.

GOOD FRIDAY – March 30

9:00 a.m. Morning Prayer (Church)
11:30 a.m. Seven Last Words of Christ
1:00 p.m. Children's Stations of the Cross
3:00 p.m. Stations of the Cross
7:30 p.m. Celebration of the Lord's Passion

HOLY SATURDAY – March 31

8:00 a.m. Morning Prayer (Rectory Chapel)
12:00 Noon Blessing of Easter Baskets
8:00 p.m. Easter Vigil

No 5:00 p.m. Liturgy

EASTER SUNDAY – April 1

8:00 a.m. Church
9:30 a.m. Church
11:15 a.m. Church
1:00 p.m. Church

No 5:00 p.m. Liturgy

SIGN UP FOR REBUILDING TOGETHER

Calling all novice, skilled and professional tradespeople! The Rebuilding Together team needs your skills in helping make repairs and small improvements to a home in Silver Spring on April 28, as part of St. Francis' Rebuilding Together project. Parishioners ages 14 and older are encouraged to sign up to help at the house, which needs landscaping, trim replacement, painting and spackling, among other work. If the house has sufficient numbers of volunteers working there, then overflow volunteers are invited to do some cleanup, light landscaping and general improvement work at the St. Francis Rectory. To sign up for Rebuilding Together, go to the Social Concerns table in the Gathering Space for direction on registration. For more information on signing up, contact St. Francis Rebuilding Together Volunteer Coordinator Pat O'Connor at leafs20879@aol.com.

ADULT CONFIRMATION CLASS

Have you never had the opportunity to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation? Fr. John is teaching a class for parishioners over the age of eighteen who have been baptized, have made their First Holy Communion, but for one reason or another have not been confirmed. Interested? Please contact Fr. John at the rectory. E-mail: jdillon@sfadw.org. Phone: 301-840-1407 by Monday, April 2, 2018.

March 18, 2018

LAMB OF GOD PRAYER MEETING Join the Lamb of God Prayer Group for worship and the study of Scripture on Tuesday, March 20, 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.

HAITI MINISTRY INVITES PARISHIONERS TO HELP OUT AT HOOPS FOR HAITI

All St. Francis parishioners are invited to help and attend the Hoops for Haiti basketball fundraiser event beginning at 4:30 p.m. Saturday, April 14, at Our Lady of Good Counsel High School in Olney. The annual event adds new activities every year, and this year is no exception.

New this year is the 3 on 3 basketball tournament, which will field eight teams from the various ministries at St. Francis. The teams will play against each other on the half court in a mini tournament before the main game between the Ole Saints and the Swole Saints at 7:00 p.m. The Saturday Morning Spiritual Reading Group has already formed a team and is looking for challengers!

But if dribbling, shooting and scoring aren't really your cup of tea, then there are other ways to help and participate in Hoops for Haiti. Are you a baker? Do you enjoy handing things out? Can you referee? If so, then let Haiti Ministry Coordinator Dan Cardile know and he can help you determine where your talents might be best used.

For more information about Hoops for Haiti, contact Dan Cardile at dancardile@yahoo.com.

ARE YOU CELEBRATING A SPECIAL WEDDING ANNIVERSARY THIS YEAR? On Sunday, June 17, at 2:00 p.m. Cardinal Donald Wuerl will preside at the annual Mass honoring married couples celebrating **25, 30, 35, 40, 45, 50** and **50+** years of marriage. The Jubilarian Mass will be held at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception. Personalized scrolls signed by Cardinal Wuerl will be distributed to the couples following the ceremony, or mailed should they be unable to attend. If you are interested in attending or receiving a scroll, please call the Parish Office before **Monday, April 16th**.

HOLY THURSDAY– WASHING OF THE FEET

We are looking for volunteers to have their feet washed at the Mass of the Lord's Supper on Holy Thursday at 7:30 p.m. If you would like to participate please call the Parish Office, (301) 840-1407, no later than Monday, March 19 or sign-up at the Information Desk in the Gathering space...

DON'T MISS THE LENTEN DAY OF REFLECTION TO PREPARE YOURSELF FOR HOLY WEEK

As we approach Holy Week, are you looking for a special way to enter this sacred time? If so, then please join us next Saturday, March 24, from 10:30-4:00 p.m. in the church for the Lenten Day of Reflection.

Participants are invited to behold and ponder the seven sorrows of Mary, the main theme of the retreat. Together, we will quiet our souls so that we may hear and see the Lord.

Come hear mini talks by Fr. John Dillon, Fr. Jack Berard and your fellow parishioners. Meditate, be lifted through music, and take the time over which to be prayed. Attendees will end the day with the celebration of the 5:00 p.m. Vigil Mass, but you are welcome to come for all or part of the day.

Please bring a bag lunch. For more information, contact Medy DeAussen at medydeausen@comcast.net. *Organized by Couples for Christ (CFC) at St. Francis.*

CHILDREN'S CHOIR STILL SEEKING YOUNGER SINGERS

It's not too late to sign up for the Children's Choir that will sing during the Family Stations of the Cross at 1:00 p.m. Good Friday, March 30, in the church. All children ages 6 and older are invited to join.

Rehearsals for the Children's Choir will be held Thursday, March 22. The choir will also practice at 12:00 Noon on March 30, just before the Family Stations of the Cross. Even if you are reading one of the stations on Good Friday, you can still sing, as the songs are before and after the readings. If you are interested in having your child sing in the choir, please call Sue Madison at (301) 977-6854 or e-mail her at musikal76@msn.com. You can also sign-up at the Information Desk.

SAVE THE DATE ANNUAL YARD SALE PARISH CENTER Saturday, May 12

Please start saving your "stuff" and watch the bulletin for additional details regarding drop-off and volunteer sign-ups.

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 am to 12:15 pm. Look for camper registration information, as well as information about volunteer opportunities for adults and teens, after Easter!

NO RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CLASSES FOR HOLY WEEK AND EASTER HOLIDAYS

Religious Education classes will not meet during Holy Week and Easter week. Please make note of the schedule for the remaining Religious Education classes for this school year:

March 25, 26 & 27	No RE Classes (Holy Week)
April 1, 2 & 3	No RE Classes (Easter week)
April 8, 9 & 10	RE Classes
April 15, 16 & 17	RE Classes
April 22, 23 & 24	RE Classes
April 29, 30 & May 1	RE Classes
May 6, 7 & 8	Last RE Classes (except for Confirmation classes)

CONFIRMATION CANDIDATE & PARENT MEETING

A reminder to Confirmation Candidates and Parents: There will be a meeting for students and parents on Wednesday, April 4, 6:45-8:30 p.m. in the Parish Center.

FAMILY STATIONS OF THE CROSS VOLUNTEER TO READ OR ACT

A special Stations of the Cross for children and families will be held on Good Friday, March 30 at 1:00 p.m.. *The stations are an excellent way for families to honor Jesus on this special and solemn day in a way that children of all ages can understand. All are welcome to join us for this special time of prayer.*

- **Children (Grades 1-5) read the stations:** *No rehearsal required* for readers. Instructions and material are provided ahead of time so children can practice reading at home. *To volunteer as a reader, please contact the Religious Education Office at sfareligioused@sfadw.org, or 301-258-9193.*
- **Teens (Grades 6 through 12) act in the silent tableau:** There are FOUR rehearsals for teens: Sundays, March 11, 18 and 25 from 2:30-4:00 p.m. in the Church AND Good Friday, March 30, starting at 10:00 a.m. in the Church. *To volunteer as an actor, please contact Pam Kelley at pammy-cats@msn.com, or 301-807-3146.*



ENCOUNTER ALEFA

We encounter Alefa in Malawi, where seeds are helping her family survive an uncertain climate. How can you care for God's creation this Lent? How can you support those, worldwide, who are forced to flee their homes to find safety or better opportunities? Visit crsricebowl.org for more. **Please plan to turn in your CRS Rice Bowl to Religious Education Classes or to the Church Gathering Space no later than MARCH 25.**

YOUTH MINISTRY NEWS/EVENTS

ST. FRANCIS YOUTH MINISTRY Upcoming Events

FRED

MARCH

- 18 Be Prayerful - Panel on Prayer
- 23 CRS Food Fast - 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. (Youth Room)
- 25 Be Real - Romans 12:9
- 30 Family Stations of the Cross @ 1 p.m.

APRIL

- 1 No FRED - **Happy Easter!**
- 20-22 FRED Retreat: "What Do YOU Stand For?"

GET SOCIAL

Follow us on Instagram & Twitter @ SFAFRED.

A BIG THANK YOU TO ALL WHO DONATED TO THE CATHOLIC CHARITIES COAT DRIVE

The St. Francis Social Concerns Ministry would like to thank those St. Francis parishioners who donated their gently used coats and winter gear during the Catholic Charities Coat Drive on January 13 and 14. So many coats, jackets, mittens, scarves and gloves were given that St. Francis parish staff had to transport the donations to St. Patrick's Catholic Church in a rented truck, funded by an archdiocesan grant.

Special thanks go to St. Francis Confirmation candidate Ryan Fitzgerald and his family, who coordinated a coat donation drive in their neighborhood that yielded more than a dozen coats and outerwear, which were then given to the Catholic Charities Coat Drive. All donations will be or were distributed through a Catholic Charities Center, one of which is at the McCarrick Center off Georgia and Randolph Roads. For more information, contact Social Concerns Minister Tony Bosnick at abosnick@sfadw.org.

YOUR OFFERTORY CONTRIBUTION

Just a reminder that we do not record loose checks from the weekly collection. In order for us to track your contribution and send you a statement at the end of the year, it is suggested that you sign up for envelopes or Faith Direct. To sign up for envelopes you can call the Parish Office, (301) 840-1407. To sign up for electronic contributions visit www.faithdirect.net. The code for St. Francis is MD110. If you have any questions, please call the Parish Office.

CATHOLIC CEMETERY

STATIONS OF THE CROSS ON GOOD FRIDAY

Have you ever walked the Way of the Cross at a Catholic cemetery? Come experience this moving encounter with Jesus and his Mother on the way to Calvary. This prayerful walk through the mystery of Christ's Passion and Death is a spiritual work of mercy for the souls at the cemetery who await their own fulfillment in his Resurrection from the dead. In addition to the Good Friday services here at the parish, you are invited to pray the Stations of the Cross at an archdiocesan Catholic cemetery at 12:00 noon on Good Friday, March 30. For more information on Good Friday Stations, contact the Catholic cemetery manager at All Souls Cemetery, 11401 Brink Rd., Germantown, MD, 301-428-1995; Gate of Heaven Cemetery, 13801 Georgia Ave., Silver Spring, MD, 301-871-6500 or visit ccaw.org.

LENTEN FISH TACO DINNER

Please join the Knights of Columbus Montgomery County Council 2323 for a Lenten Fish Dinner on Friday, March 23rd, from 6pm to 8pm, at Father Cuddy Hall, 17001 Overhill Rd., Derwood MD. 20855. Dinner includes fish tacos, beer, wine, and coffee for adults, and choice of fish tacos or fish sticks, and soda for children. Both meals include dessert!! All proceeds go to support our Parishes. \$8.00 a person, \$5.00 for children 6 and under. We hope to see you there!! For more information or to let us know you'll be coming, email rstaab2323@gmail.com, or visit us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/kofc2323/

MOTHER OF GOD SCHOOL OFFERING OPEN HOUSE ON MARCH 22

Looking for a **good Catholic education** for your children, or know someone who is? Consider **Mother of God School**, 20501 Goshen Road, Gaithersburg. We have the **largest Catholic Pre-K program** (3's & 4's) in the area, with before and after care available year-round. Check out our **rigorous academic programs for K-8th grade** as well. Come to our **Open House on Thursday, March 22 from 6 to 7:30 p.m.** For more information, or to schedule a tour any time, call the school at (301) 990-2088, visit www.mogschool.com, e-mail mmoriarty@mogschool.com.



SOCCER FOR YOUTH REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN!!

- GIRLS: K - 3rd Grade
- BOYS: K - 2nd Grade
- Kids have fun while learning to play!
- Includes uniform, games, practice sessions, prayers, & trophies for all players!
- Inviting St. Francis little athletes to play soccer with St. Patrick and St. Jude!

For more information, please Email: Pdavila0724@gmail.com

SFA Health Ministry

Encouraging health and wellness in body, mind and spirit

Two Retreats Offer Hope and Healing to Those Who Have Had Abortions

For a woman or man who has directly or indirectly experienced the trauma of an abortion, the pain can lead to separation from God due to guilt and shame. Two different retreats – one weekend and a one-day opportunity – offer the chance for healing after the decision to have an abortion has been made.

On April 6-8, the Rachel's Vineyard retreat weekend offers two different locations to offer help and healing for persons struggling with the emotional and spiritual pain of abortion. The weekend offers a very specific trauma sensitive process designed to help the participant feel God's mercy and compassion in a safe environment.

- April 6-8 in Wilmington, DE, with content delivered in English. For more information, contact Nan Freeman at (302) 333-1904 or e-mail her at ucyminn929@gmail.com.

Separately, on April 28, Project Rachel Baltimore's ***Come to the Water Retreat*** offers a way to provide healing after an abortion. The one-day retreat helps participants reflect on and process this painful part of their lives and begin healing through a supportive and non-judgmental process.

The retreat will be held in the Baltimore area on April 28. If you are interested in attending the retreat or would like to speak with a peer minister or staff member, then please contact at (410) 625-8491 or e-mail projectrachel@archbalt.org.

Spotlight on St. Jude Regional Catholic School *Catch our Spirit*

www.StJudeRockville.org

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

SCHOLASTIC BOOK FAIR

Our Scholastic Book Fair is a reading event that brings to school the books kids want to read. It's a wonderful selection of engaging and affordable books for every reading level. Please make plans to visit our Book Fair or order books online. All proceeds go to purchase books for our school library.

- Book Fair dates: March 20-22
- Shopping hours: 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
- Family Reading Night – March 20 6:00 – 7:30 p.m.

Visit our Book Fair homepage at <http://bookfairs.scholastic.com/homepage/stjuderockville>

REGISTER NOW FOR OUR PRE-K 3 & PRE-K 4 YEAR OLD PROGRAMS

St. Jude Regional Catholic School offers an exciting age-appropriate curriculum that enriches and prepares the children for a successful transition into the next school year. SJRCS is dedicated to the development of the whole child within a Catholic community of faith. The preschool promotes an environment where children become independent, confident, lifelong learners with a strong sense of self. St Jude reflects a play-based and theme-based curriculum. The children are exposed to a wide range of experiences such as circle time, small group instruction, free play, dramatic play, science, music, art, library, physical education, and outdoor time. Come join the fun! Register online at http://www.stjuderockville.org/pages/StJudeRegionalCatholicSchool/Admissions/Apply_Online