



Mass Intentions

March 26 - April 1

Monday: 3/26	9:00 a.m. Paul Richard Hayes
Tuesday, 3/27	9:00 a.m. Reverend John Mattingly
Wednesday, 3/28	9:00 a.m. Deacon Pascal Hong 7:30 p.m. Agnieszka Wnek
Holy Thursday, 3/29	9:00 a.m. No Daily Mass 7:30 p.m. For All Priests
Good Friday, 3/30	9:00 a.m. No Daily Mass
Holy Saturday, 3/31	9:00 a.m. No Daily Mass 8:00 p.m. For the Newly Initiated
Easter Sunday, 4/1	8:00 a.m. Christine Martin 9:30 a.m. Don Smith 11:15 a.m. <i>Pro populo</i> 1:00 p.m. Dorothy Campbell

No 5:00 p.m. Sunday Mass.

Please pray for the sick....Serge Triau, Bernard Kohan, Rocco Prologo, Geri Trickett, Michael J. White, Cheryl Rickerds, Ed Dudenhoeffler, 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 25, 2018

Sunday:	Mk 11:1-10/Is 50:4-7/Ps 22:8-9, 17-18, 19-20, 23-24 [2a]/Phil 2:6-11/Mk 14:1--15:47
Monday:	Is 42:1-7/Ps 27:1, 2, 3, 13-14 [1a]/Jn 12:1-11
Tuesday:	Is 49:1-6/Ps 71:1-2, 3-4a, 5ab-6ab, 15 and 17 [cf. 15ab]/Jn 13:21-33, 36-38
Wednesday:	Is 50:4-9a/Ps 69:8-10, 21-22, 31 and 33-34 [14c]/Mt 26:14-25
Thursday, Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper:	Ex 12:1-8, 11-14/Ps 116:12-13, 15-16bc, 17-18 [cf. 1 Cor 10:16]/1 Cor 11:23-26/Jn 13:1-15
Friday:	Is 52:13-53:12/Ps 31:2, 6, 12-13, 15-16, 17, 25 [Lk 23:46]/Heb 4:14-16; 5:7-9/Jn 18:1--19:42
Saturday Vigil:	Gn 1:1--2:2 /Ps 104:1-2, 5-6, 10, 12, 13-14, 24, 35 [30] Gn 22:1-18 /Ps 16:5, 8, 9-10, 11 [1]/Ex 14:15--15:1/Ex 15:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 17-18 [1b]/Is 54:5-14/Ps 30:2, 4, 5-6, 11-12, 13 [2a]/Is 55:1-11/Is 12:2-3, 4, 5-6 [3]/Bar 3:9-15, 32--4:4/Ps 19:8, 9, 10, 11 [Jn 6:68c]/Ez 36:16-17a, 18-28/Ps 42:3, 5; 43:3, 4 [42:2] /Ps 118:1-2, 16-17, 22-23/Mk 16:1-7
Next Sunday:	Acts 10:34a, 37-43/Ps 118:1-2, 16-17, 22-23 [24]/Col 3:1-4 /Jn 20:1-9

STEWARDSHIP REPORT

Figures were not available at the time of publication.

Thank you for your continued support

THE MUSINGS OF THE PASTOR

I want to welcome all those who have come to Mass today on Palm Sunday. Some of you are visiting family members and have come from a distance to be with them this week. Others like to join us for the Holy Week and Easter liturgies. If you are new to the parish, please feel free to fill out one of the cards in the pew pocket and turn it in at the Information Desk in our Gathering Space. For the rest of this column, I am including some remarks prepared by Fr. Paul Turner, the pastor of St. Anthony Parish in the Diocese of Kansas City-St. Joseph, Missouri. Fr. Turner holds a doctorate in sacred theology from Sant'Anselmo in Rome and is a widely published and respected author, particularly on liturgical matters.

May you have a blessed and prayerful Holy Week!

Fr. John

Processions in Holy Week

Paul Turner

You may feel you deserve applause when you get out of bed or off the couch and go to church. After all, many Catholics don't even do *that* much. You do. During Holy Week, however, going to church is not enough. Just when you think you can settle into your favorite pew, you will be asked to stand up, leave your place, and walk. Many Catholics resist. They become pew potatoes. But those who join the processions of Holy Week will find their faith and charity rewarded.

On Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord, for example, the Mass may begin outdoors. Instead of going directly into the church as usual, you may gather in another area—indoors or out. The priest will bless the palm branches, he or the deacon will proclaim the Gospel, and then all process into the church acclaiming Christ.

On Thursday of the Lord's Supper, the evening Mass does not conclude in the usual way. Instead, a procession forms right after communion. The Blessed Sacrament is brought to a special chapel or tabernacle. You may be invited to join this procession, singing hymns of praise and moving to a place where you may pray privately in the course of the night.

During the Good Friday liturgy, you will be invited forward to adore the cross.

At the Easter Vigil, as on Palm Sunday, you may be invited to start Mass outside the church. There a fire may be burning, signifying the resurrection of Christ, the light that shatters darkness. Carrying candles, you enter the church following a pillar of fire, as our ancestors marched from slavery to freedom.

The processions of Holy Week draw us into the mystery of the death and resurrection of Christ. It is worthwhile to get up out of the pew.

Copyright © 2012 Resource Publications, Inc. 160 E. Virginia St. #170, San Jose, CA 95112, (408) 286-8505.

Palm Sunday 2018

QUESTION OF THE WEEK

As we enter into the final days of this Lenten journey, am I ready to respond to the Christ in others with loyalty, courage and love in whatever condition I find them, through whatever difficulties they may have undergone?



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

THE SUNDAY TV MASS

Do you know someone who can't get to Mass? Since 1952, the Archdiocese of Washington has produced a weekly televised Mass for those who are homebound, broadcast from the Crypt Church of the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception. It is a wonderful ministry for those members of our Catholic family who are unable to be physically present with a local worshipping community for the Sunday Eucharistic Liturgy.

The Mass airs every Sunday at 10:30 a.m. on WDCW-50:

- No cable; Dish or DIRECTV subscribers: Ch. 50
- Comcast: Ch. 23 in Washington, DC & Montgomery County;
Ch. 3 in Prince George's County & Southern Maryland
- RCN: Ch 15
- Verizon: Ch. 3

**GOOD FRIDAY STATIONS OF THE CROSS
ALL SOULS CEMETERY**

Walk with Jesus on His journey to the Cross. Gather with us at All Souls Cemetery on Good Friday, March 30, 2018, at 12:00 noon to meditate on each step of Christ’s journey of sacrifice to Calvary. Our Pastor, Fr. John, will lead the Stations. For additional information on Good Friday Stations please contact All Souls Cemetery, (301) 428-1995.

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 26** or sign-up at the Information Desk in the Gathering Space this weekend.

GOOD FRIDAY HOLY LAND COLLECTION

On Good Friday, the Archdiocese of Washington will take up the annual Pontifical Collection for the Holy Land. The challenges for Christians living in the Holy Land are great. Many have chosen to leave, and others continue to do so, depleting the Christian faith communities there and making the need of families that remain all the more urgent. The Good Friday Collection aids the ministry of the Holy Land Franciscans, who for 800 years have nourished Christians in the Holy Land with presence, care, and service. Your support helps the Church to minister in parishes, provide Catholic schools, and offer religious education. It also helps to preserve the sacred shrines in the land where our faith was born. Please be generous as you are able. For more information about Christians in the Holy Land, please visit www.myfranciscan.org/good-Friday.

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 25, 2018

LAMB OF GOD PRAYER MEETING Join the Lamb of God Prayer Group for worship and the study of Scripture on Tuesday, March 27, 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 Gaithersburg Help. *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.



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**.

PARISH OFFICES WILL BE CLOSED

March 29 - Holy Thursday at 12:00 Noon

March 30 - Good Friday

April 2 - Easter Monday

BUY YOUR TICKETS NOW FOR THE HOOPS FOR HAITI FUNDRAISER ON APRIL 14

It's not too late to buy tickets for the upcoming Hoops for Haiti fundraiser on Saturday, April 14, at Our Lady of Good Counsel High School in Olney. Join in some old-fashioned family fun, as we watch the Ol' Saints (adults) take on the Swole Saints (teenagers) during the main event at 7:00 p.m. Stay for the half-time contest, kids' activities, food, music and prizes. Or come early for the inaugural 3-on-3 basketball tournament at 4:30 p.m. and watch various St. Francis ministries dribble, shoot and score off each other during the half court tournament.

Tickets for the event are \$5 for students; \$10 per adult and \$30 maximum per family. To buy tickets, e-mail Haiti Ministry Coordinator Dan Cardile at dancardile@yahoo.com.

REBUILDING TOGETHER TEAM NEEDS MORE VOLUNTEERS TO DO CLEANUP, REPAIR WORK AT SILVER SPRING HOUSE

Are you handy with a hammer, caulk gun, paint brush or hedge trimmer? Then, come join the Rebuilding Together Ministry, as they gather April 28 to make general improvements on a home in Silver Spring whose owners need help in maintaining and repairing their house.

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 homepage of the parish web site, <http://www.sfadw.org>, to access the application form. For more information on signing up, contact St. Francis Rebuilding Together Volunteer Coordinator Pat O'Connor at leafs20879@aol.com, Mike Rogewitz at rogewitm@gmail.com, or John Vilgos at john.vilgos@gmail.com.

SIGN-UP TODAY TO TAKE PART IN FAMILY STATIONS OF THE CROSS ON MARCH 30

There's still time for children of all ages to participate in the Family Stations of the Cross to be held at 1:00 p.m. Good Friday, March 30. The stations are an excellent way for families to honor Jesus on this solemn day in a way children of all ages can understand. Kids can participate in four ways:

1. Children in grades 1-5 can read the stations. To volunteer, contact the Religious Education Office at sfareligiosed@sfadw.org.
2. Teens in grades 6-12 can act in the silent tableau, To volunteer as an actor, contact Pam Kelley at pammycats@msn.com
3. Children ages 6 and older may sing in the Children's Choir. The last rehearsal is at noon March 30 in the Youth Room. If you are interested in having your child sing, please contact Sue Madison at musick-al76@msn.com.
4. All are invited to attend at 1:00 p.m. on Good Friday.

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 pammycats@msn.com, or 301-807-3146.*



ENCOUNTER OUR NEIGHBORS

We encounter Jesus this week in Jerusalem, a community we knew well. We prayerfully enter our own communities too, encountering those who are hungry and thirsty, those who need our help. How does our Lenten journey motivate us to serve those we meet in our daily lives? Visit crsricebowl.org for more. **Please plan to turn in your CRS Rice bowl to the Church Gathering Space TODAY.**

YOUTH MINISTRY NEWS/EVENTS

ST. FRANCIS YOUTH MINISTRY

Upcoming Events

FRED

MARCH

- 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.

TEENS TO REFLECT ON WHAT THEY STAND FOR DURING FRED SPRING RETREAT ON APRIL 20-22

Calling all teens! The FRED Spring Retreat will be held April 20-22 at the Pecometh Retreat Center in Centreville, MD. Participants will reflect on the retreat title, *'What do you stand for?'* and discuss and reflect on the Apostle's Creed. Cost of the retreat is \$100, which includes food and a T-shirt. Please submit the fee by April 15. Scholarships are available for those people for whom the registration fee would cause a hardship. For more information, contact Fr. Jack Berard at jberard@sfadw.org.

QUO-VADIS HIKING TRIP

On Sunday, April 15, all high school aged men who are interested in learning more about the priesthood are invited to go on a *Quo Vadis* hiking trip in Montgomery County. The day will include Mass, lunch, Eucharistic Adoration, dinner, and the opportunity to spend time with priests, seminarians, and other high school aged men who are open to the priesthood. Bus transportation is available from throughout the archdiocese. More information is available and registration is open at www.DCpriest.org. Please contact the Office of Priest Vocations (vocations@adw.org or 202-636-9020) with any questions.

Spotlight on St. Jude Regional Catholic School Catch our Spirit

www.StJudeRockville.org

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

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/ApplyOnline>

UPDATE ON ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI SPONSORED REFUGEE FAMILIES

St. Francis of Assisi Parish is now sponsoring two refugee families, the Alhumayers from Syria and our new family, the Nonaides from the Central African Republic (CAR). The Alhumayers are doing very well and soon will be considered self-sufficient. Bashir, the father, and Yamen the eldest son, both have full-time jobs. Maher and Yamama, the two youngest children, are doing well in the International School in Prince Georges County. Ghosoun, the mother, still struggles with her Type 1 diabetes and other chronic conditions, but she is receiving good medical care. The family has completed their Green Card process and is now awaiting word on their status. We are no longer providing regular financial support to the family, but continue to assist them with emergencies, as well as providing social support since our volunteers have become "family" to them.

The Nonaides suffered from the civil war and related strife in CAR and lived in a refugee camp in Cameroon for several years before coming to the United States. They have four young children and their fifth child will likely be born by the time you read this item. The French-speaking mother and father are Honorine and Gilbert, respectively. Their four eldest children are Travis (10); Roseline (7), Delphin (5) and Adelph (2). Travis, Roseline and Delphin are in their age-related grades in school. However, they struggle with schoolwork as they learn English and are impacted by not having attended good schools in the refugee camp. The family lives in an apartment in Hyattsville and Gilbert works 50 or more hours per week at a low wage job. Their needs are great.

We, at St. Francis, are teamed with volunteers and benefactors from St. Rose of Lima in Gaithersburg, the Islamic Center of Potomac (ICP) and Temple Beth Ami in Rockville. We would like to assist the family with tutoring in English for the parents and in all subjects for the school-age children. The parents do not drive and need support to get to doctor's appointments and other essential outings, such as church. They are quite isolated and do not have any French-speaking friends or family. They practiced a Protestant religious tradition in Africa, but they are open to Catholic services as well.

The Pax Christi Ministry is compiling a list of volunteers who can regularly or occasionally help with miscellaneous tasks, such as tutoring, childcare, providing transportation, taking them to a church service, interfacing with the children's schools, or other efforts as needed. If you would like to be added to the mailing list to keep informed of the families' needs, or potentially help or contribute donations of items or money to our families, please contact Chris King at caking.home@gmail.com or Mary Kate Ryner at rynoslp@msn.com or sign the Interest Sheet at the Information Desk.

2018 MONTGOMERY COUNTY FAIR

St. Francis will not be participating this year in the Montgomery County Fair. While the volunteers enjoyed working at the fair and getting to know one another, the food booth was not a good fundraiser for the parish. Thank you to everyone who volunteered or supported our Food Booth 37!

SFA Health Ministry

Encouraging health and wellness in body, mind and spirit

Retreat Offers Refuge to Persons Struggling with Emotional and Spiritual Pain of Abortion

During Lent, we are called to deeply reflect on ourselves and our spiritual life. This reflection may be difficult for someone who feels separated from God due to guilt and shame after an abortion.

On April 6-8, the Rachel's Vineyard retreat weekend in Wilmington, DE, offers hope and healing for any person who has struggled with the emotional or spiritual pain of abortion. The weekend is a very specific trauma sensitive process designed to help the participant experience the mercy and compassion of God in a safe environment.

To register for the retreat, go to www.RachelsVineyard.org or call 1-(877)-HOPE-4-ME (1-877-467-3463).

All calls are confidential. For more information, please contact Nan Freeman at (302) 333-1904 or e-mail her at lu-cyminn929@gmail.com.

Project Rachel Come to the Water Retreat

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.

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.

DIVINE MERCY NOVENA

Please join us for the Divine Mercy Novena which begins on Good Friday and ends on Divine Mercy Sunday. We will begin in the church at 2:30 p.m. before the Stations of the Cross at 3:00 p.m..