



Mass Intentions

April 16 - April 22

Monday, 4/16	9:00 a.m. Jane Ruiz (L)
Tuesday, 4/17	9:00 a.m. Adela Canino
Wednesday, 4/18	9:00 a.m. Father Ivan Almodovar 7:30 p.m. Natividad D. Roxas
Thursday, 4/19	9:00 a.m. Millie Bussard
Friday, 4/20	9:00 a.m. Eugene Dudenhoeffer
Saturday, 4/21	9:00 a.m. Guy Beaven 5:00 p.m. <i>Pro populo</i>
Sunday, 4/22	8:00 a.m. Ernst Walter 9:30 a.m. Julia & Andrew Erecitano 11:15 a.m. William Zachmann 5:00 p.m. Maria Relunia

+ In Memoriam Aeternam +

In your charity, please pray for the repose of the soul of Marilyn Panke, mother of Reverend Monsignor Robert J. Panke.

Please pray for the sick...Dianne Palmer, Maria Patterson, Nick Powers, Carol Toney, Eusebia Lo, Serge Triau, Jack Price, Dennis Parnell, Bernard Kohan, Geri Trickett, Michael J. White, Cheryl Rickerds, Ed Dudenhoeffer, 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 April 15, 2018

Sunday:	Acts 3:13-15, 17-19/Ps 4:2, 4, 7-8, 9 [7a]/ 1 Jn 2:1-5a/Lk 24:35-48
Monday:	Acts 6:8-15/Ps 119:23-24, 26-27, 29-30 [1ab]/ Jn 6:22-29
Tuesday:	Acts 7:51--8:1a/Ps 31:3cd-4, 6 and 7b and 8a, 17 and 21ab [6a]/Jn 6:30-35
Wednesday:	Acts 8:1b-8/Ps 66:1-3a, 4-5, 6-7a [1]/ Jn 6:35-40
Thursday:	Acts 8:26-40/Ps 66:8-9, 16-17, 20 [1]/ Jn 6:44-51
Friday:	Acts 9:1-20/Ps 117:1bc, 2 [Mk 16:15]/ Jn 6:52-59
Saturday:	Acts 9:31-42/Ps 116:12-13, 14-15, 16-17 [12]/ Jn 6:60-69
Next Sunday:	Acts 4:8-12/Ps 118:1, 8-9, 21-23, 26, 28, 29 [22]/1 Jn 3:1-2/Jn 10:11-18

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. The fourth section of the pastoral plan stresses the importance of parish life. Cardinal Wuerl introduces this section with these noteworthy comments:

The home of pastoral accompaniment is the parish, where we all experience the healing love and mercy of Jesus Christ. Accompaniment connects people with the relationships and resources needed to sustain and nurture family life and to heal broken relationships that weaken or break family ties. The parish has a central role in making visible the Gospel vision for marriage and family life.

In Amoris Laetitia, the Holy Father underlines the importance of parishes: "The main contribution to the pastoral care of families is offered by the parish, which is the family of families, where small communities, ecclesial movements and associations live in harmony" (202). We are blessed in the Archdiocese of Washington by the presence of all three experiences of Christian communities that provide numerous support and resources.

Our parishes, as the place 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. The Church assures all that there is a place for everyone in our spiritual home.

Today I want to present some thoughts for accompanying youth that are presented in this section of the pastoral plan.

The Scriptures and stories of the saints remind us that God does not wait until someone turns 18 or 21 to call them to great things. He chose a young adult, Mary, to become the Mother of God. Many of our great Christian saints and heroes were young people who listened daily to God in prayer and made courageous decisions to answer His call in their lives. As Saint Paul reminds us, "Let no one have contempt for youth, but set an example for those who believe in speech, conduct, love, faith and purity" (1 Timothy 4:12).

From many of our young people, we learn some ways that youth can deepen their faith and be engaged in parish life include:

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

Third Sunday of Easter

QUESTION OF THE WEEK

How can I be a witness? How can I explain what the presence of Jesus in my life means?

INDICATORS OF VITALITY SURVEY OPEN THROUGH SATURDAY, APRIL 28

St. Francis parishioners are encouraged to take the parish's Indicators of Vitality Survey, which is now live through April 28. The archdiocesan tool provides a way for parishioners to assess the parish in five key areas – Liturgy and worship, Education formation, Community, Service and Administration --, giving parish leaders valuable insight into St. Francis' capacity to grow and make disciples.

The survey can be accessed through several means:

- Going to the parish web site, www.sfadw.org, and clicking on the survey link on the homepage.
- Typing the survey link URL, <https://s.zoomerang.com/r/GW3RBNZ>, into a web browser.
- Filling out a paper copy of the survey, which is available in the Gathering Space after Masses the weekend of April 14/15 and 21/22.

The Pastoral Council, which is responsible for administering the survey, is interested in getting broad participation from not only current parishioners, but also older children of parishioners who may no longer live in the area; occasional visitors and former members of the parish. Feel free to spread the word about the survey among people who have regularly celebrated at St. Francis, either now or recently. Those who complete the survey will also be eligible to win an Amazon gift card. For more information about the Indicators of Vitality Survey, contact the Pastoral Council at asktheppc@gmail.com.

THE MUSINGS OF THE PASTOR (continued)

- Strengthening their faith with their family (parents, siblings, grandparents and other relatives) by praying and going to Mass and parish activities together;
- Actively participating in preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation and continuing to put their faith into practice as a fully initiated Catholic;
- Selecting a sponsor for Confirmation who will be present during the preparation for this sacrament of initiation and also after Confirmation as a mentor in the Catholic faith;
- Seeking out opportunities to serve others within your parish or your local community;
- Becoming an active participant in the life of the parish through opportunities such as youth ministry programs, or as altar servers, lectors, Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion (for those eighteen and older), etc.;
- Being actively engaged during Mass and participating in the liturgy with enthusiasm;
- Attending a retreat or conference during high school years (annually if possible); and
- Getting to know the priests and deacons in the parish.

Until next week,
Fr. John Dillon

“FINAL REMINDER”

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**.

REBUILDING TOGETHER PROJECT TAKES PLACE IN JUST TWO WEEKS

The Rebuilding Together project is quickly approaching on Saturday, April 28. With many parishioners signed up to help at our assigned house in Silver Spring, additional volunteers may be asked to work at the St. Francis of Assisi Rectory to complete some light gardening, general cleanup and other assigned tasks. No matter where you may end up, your contributions are valuable and are very appreciated!

If you are still interested in joining us at the St. Francis Rebuilding Together project, then please register by going to <http://bit.ly/2oKgRdl>. Any participate over the age of 14 is welcome to volunteer. However, if you are 14-18, then you must print out the Volunteer Waiver form at <https://rebuildingtogethermc.org/volunteer-center/volunteer-waiver-form/>, have an adult sign it and bring it onsite with you the day of the project.

For more information, contact House Captain Mike Rogewitz at rogewitm@gmail.com, John Vilgos at John.Vilgos@gmail.com, or volunteer coordinator Pat O'Connor at leafs20879@aol.com.

JOIN THE FIRST BROWN BAG CONVERSATION AT 1:00 P.M. IN THE ASSISI ROOM

Bring a lunch and join us for the first Brown Bag Conversation to be held at 1:00 p.m., Sunday, April 15, in the St. Francis Rectory's Assisi Room. The topic: *Daily Examen*, led by Fr. Jack Berard. Drop-ins are welcome!

Altar Servers Schedule

Saturday, April 21

8:00 p.m. A. Potter, Z. Potter

Sunday, April 22

8:00 a.m. V. Ryba, J. Smith
9:30 a.m. P. Bowers, Z. Marquez
11:15 a.m. A. Hall, M. Hall
5:00 p.m. C. Carroll, G. D'Sousa

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

“Lord, help me to make time today to serve you in those who are most in need of encouragement or assistance” - St. Vincent de Paul

April 15, 2018

LAMB OF GOD PRAYER MEETING Join the Lamb of God Prayer Group for worship and the study of Scripture on Tuesday, April 17, 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.

SAVE THE DATE

ST. FRANCIS SPRING FUNDRAISERS

ANNUAL INDOOR YARD SALE SATURDAY, MAY 12

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



PLANT SALE SATURDAY/SUNDAY MAY 19/20

(Annuals, Herbs, Hanging Baskets, Potted Plants!)

CHRISTIAN LIFE PROGRAM HELPS MARRIED COUPLES UNDERSTAND GOD'S CALL TO CHRISTIAN COUPLES

The Second Vatican Council stated, "*each family is a domestic church, a small cell of the larger universal Church. Consequently, the family and the Church are mutually dependent on one another.*"

For families to live as a domestic church, husband and wife must understand God's plan for the family. Through the Christian Life Program, married couples will learn about the practice of building up a strong Christian family and re-committing the family to Christ. It is an integrated course leading into a renewed understanding of God's call to Christian couples.

The next offering of the Christian Life Program will be from 6:30-9:00 p.m. on Friday, April 27, in the St. Francis Rectory's Youth Room. The eight-week course will continue through June 29, covering three modules of four sessions each. The module topics are:

- The Basic Truths about Christianity
- The Authentic Christian Life
- Living a Spirit-Filled Christian Life

Husbands and wives should plan to attend the eight-week session together. The course is free, but registration closes on Friday, April 20. To register, contact SFACLP@comcast.net. See the bulletin insert or more details. This is sponsored by Couples for Christ.

GARDENING COMMITTEE SEEKS TO EXPAND ITS MEMBERS TO BEAUTIFY GROUNDS OF THE CHURCH

If you have admired the brightly colored daffodils beginning to bloom around the statue of Jesus and St. Francis at the front of the church, then you can thank the St. Francis Garden Committee for the extra pop of color. The committee is looking for additional gardeners to help expand the parish's perennial and deer resistant flower beds on April 28 – the day of the Rebuilding Together Project -- and could use your help. Consider joining the work of the committee – currently, a ministry of two -- or becoming a member. For more information, contact Ministry Coordinator Maria Dunn at (202) 281-4096.

FORMED

THE CATHOLIC FAITH ON DEMAND

The best Catholic content. All in one place. It's EASY and FREE to Register!

- 1) Go to sfadw.formed.org
- 2) Click "Register" and enter your name, email address, and desired password
- 3) You're all ready to access the inspiring and Engaging content on FORMED!
- 4) Enjoy and share with others in our local community!

FORMED is available 24/7 for you to grow in your faith. St. Francis has purchased this gift for parish use.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS/EVENTS

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CLASSES

Please make note of the schedule for the remaining Religious Education classes for this school year:

April 15, 16 and 17	RE Classes
April 22, 23 and 24	RE Classes
April 29, 30 and May 1	RE Classes
May 6, 7 and 8	Last RE Classes

(except for Confirmation classes)

UPCOMING SACRAMENTS AT ST. FRANCIS

Please pray for the children and young people of our parish who are preparing to receive First Holy Communion and the Sacrament of Confirmation this Spring. First Eucharist will be celebrated on Saturday, April 28 at 1:00 p.m.. The Sacrament of Confirmation will be celebrated on Monday, May 21 at 7:00 p.m.

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 is Sunday, April 22, 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 REGISTRATION FOR 2018-2019

We are now accepting registration for next year's Religious Education Program! Our program offerings for children and youth include:

- Pre-school and Kindergarten classes on Sunday mornings, 11:10-12:15 p.m. (*Preschool classes are for children age 3 or 4 by September 1*)
- Grade 1-5 classes offered at two session times:
 - Sunday mornings, 9:20-10:35 a.m.
 - Monday afternoons, 4:45-6:00 p.m.
- Grade 6, 7, and 8 classes offered at two session times:
 - Monday evenings, 6:45-8:00 p.m.
 - Tuesday evenings, 6:45-8:00 p.m.
- Grades 9-12 (Youth Group) meet Sunday evenings 6:00-8:00 p.m. (following the 5:00 p.m. Youth Mass)

Since the curriculum of the Religious Education Program is designed to be taught in sequence and each year builds on the content presented in previous years, families should plan for their children to participate in Religious Education classes each year.

Registration forms were mailed home to families with children currently attending RE classes. For those new to our program, and if additional forms are needed, blank forms will be available on the parish web site (www.sfadw.org), in the Gathering Space of the Church, and in the Parish Offices. Completed forms can be returned to RE classes this week, sent in by mail, or dropped off in person at the Rectory Office (Monday-Friday, 8:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.). Classes are filled on a first-come, first-served basis. Please complete and return the registration forms as soon as possible!

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

YOUTH MINISTRY NEWS/EVENTS

ST. FRANCIS YOUTH MINISTRY *Upcoming Events*

FRED

APRIL

15	Be Pure of Heart - 1 Cor 6:19-20
20-22	FRED Retreat: "What Do YOU Stand For?"
22	No FRED
28-29	Krispy Kreme/Jewelry Sale
29	Be Real - Romans 12:9

GET SOCIAL

Follow us on Instagram & Twitter @ SFAFRED.

PANEL DISCUSSION ON OPIOID EPIDEMIC INTRODUCES HOPE THAT RECOVERY IS POSSIBLE

If you or a loved one is battling addiction to opioid drugs, then an upcoming panel discussion to be held Monday, April 23 at St. Rose of Lima Church in Gaithersburg may shed some light on how to best address the challenges associated with recovery.

The discussion, "An Opioid Epidemic: Our Community, Our Concern," will be held at 6:30 p.m. at the church. The panel will discuss prevention, addiction, recovery, supports and resources. Most importantly, panelists – who include parents, law enforcement personnel, recovery and treatment specialists, those in recovery and those who have lost family members -- will introduce the notion that that recovery is possible.

All are welcome, including high school-aged students who have their parents' permission to attend. For more information, contact Christine Jeffrey at cjeffrey@strose.com.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (continued)

REGISTERING FOR SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION

Sacramental preparation for 1st Reconciliation, 1st Eucharist, Confirmation, and Christian Initiation for Children/Teens (CIC/CIT) is not grade specific and involves preparation in addition to grade level Religious Education classes. At minimum, children are expected to have participated in religious education in the year prior to preparing for a sacrament. *Please note: students preparing for the Sacrament of Confirmation will attend their grade-level Religious Education classes as well as monthly Confirmation sessions.*

Families requesting sacramental preparation for their child are asked to mark their registration form accordingly so that additional information can be provided. Please note that there is a separate materials fee for sacramental preparation programs. More details will be provided at the parent meetings next year.

If you have any questions, please call the Religious Education Office at 301-258-9193.



**REGISTER NOW FOR VACATION BIBLE CAMP 2018
SHIPWRECKED: Rescued by Jesus!**

Join us for an "island adventure" filled with incredible Bible-learning experiences kids see, hear, touch, and even taste! Daily art projects, team-building games, cool Bible songs, and tasty treats are just a few of the standout activities that help faith flow into real life. At Shipwrecked VBC, kids will discover that Jesus is with us always, and rescues us through life's storms

- Who:** Children age 4 by 6/24/2018 through those who are completing 5th grade June 2018
- Where:** St. Francis of Assisi Church Parish Center
- When:** June 25th– 29th, 2018 from 9:00am – 12:30pm
- Cost:** \$50 per child
- How:** Complete the Registration Form found in the Church Gathering Space and on our parish website (sfadw.org/vbc) and return by mail or in person to the Parish Office during business hours (Mon-Fri; 8am – 4pm) with the Registration Fee via Check or Faith Direct. (For Faith Direct information contact the Parish Office, 301-840-1407 for details.)

**St. Francis of Assisi Church
Religious Education Office – VBC
6701 Muncaster Mill Road
Derwood, MD 20855**

**American Red Cross
Blood Donation Drive**

- When:** Sunday, April 22, 2018
- Where:** St Patrick Parish Center (GYM)
4101 Norbeck Rd at Muncaster Mill Rd
- Hours:** 9:00 a.m. through 2:30 p.m.
- Appointments:** Please arrange appointment with Mary Beiter RN at mtbrhb@verizon.net or 301-460-3971.
- Walk-ins :** can be accommodated, but may cause delay for all.) Prefer to SET SPECIFIC TIMES.

**SCHEDULE your life-saving DONATION today!!
Please mark your calendar.**

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.

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

www.StJudeRockville.org

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

LEGALLY BLOND JUNIOR - April 20 & 21

Mark your calendars as our Drama Club performs Legally Blonde Junior at 7:00 on April 20th and 21st in the Thaddeus Room. Legally Blonde Junior follows the transformation of Elle Woods as she tackles stereotypes, snobbery and scandal in pursuit of her dreams.

SJRCS JUNIOR SCIENCE FAIR - April 26

Please come and explore the exciting world of science as seen through the students' eyes, as budding scientists from Pre-K through 5th grades display their science projects. The Jr. Science Fair will be held April 26th from 9:00 a.m. to 2:15 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. (Family Night) in the Thaddeus Room.

CHILDREN'S CARNIVAL - April 28

Children aged 2 to 7 years are invited to a Children's Carnival on Saturday, April 28, from 11:00 to 1:00 in the Thaddeus Room. There will be free food, games, crafts, activities, and more. The event will be held rain or shine.

BOWMAN SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

Due: Friday, April 20

The Kayleigh Anne Bowman Memorial Guardian Angel Scholarship has been designed to provide financial assistance, based on need, annually to a St. Jude student who has displayed academic promise and the values that are learned through a Catholic education. The intent of the Scholarship is to provide a grant of \$4,000 towards tuition for that student. If you are interested in this scholarship, please contact the school office.

BULLDOG BOLT 5K & FUN RUN – MAY 12

St. Jude will host our fourth annual Bulldog Bolt 5K and Fun Run, followed by an HSA sponsored cookout! All proceeds from the race will be used to replace aging athletic equipment and enhance the school facility. This wonderful event is a day of fun and fresh air for families and friends. Register online and check out all the photos from last year's Bolt on the web site! [http://www.stjuderockville.org/pages/StJudeRegionalCatholicSchool/Giving/Bulldog Bolt 5K race](http://www.stjuderockville.org/pages/StJudeRegionalCatholicSchool/Giving/Bulldog_Bolt_5K_race)

**MARYLAND CATHOLIC CONFERENCE SEEKING
ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR, RESPECT FOR LIFE**

The Maryland Catholic Conference, which represents the public policy positions of the Church in Maryland, is seeking an Associate Director, Respect for Life, to join a dedicated team passionate about working toward a just society for vulnerable people. The Associate Director will oversee state-level legislative advocacy efforts addressing public policy issues, including human rights, abortion, end-of-life care, women's issues, human trafficking, healthcare, and issues affecting persons with disabilities.

Minimum requirements: Commitment to the Church and knowledge of Church teaching; Bachelor's degree and at least five years' experience in government relations, issue advocacy and strategy, or pro-life policy; excellent writing, public speaking and interpersonal relations skills; and proficiency in Microsoft Office. Send a cover letter and resume by May 1 to mgathagan@mdcatholic.org or MCC Respect for Life, 10 Francis Street, Annapolis, MD 21401.