



Mass Intentions

May 7 - May 13

Monday, 5/7	9:00 a.m. Bertille Christelle-Mbome
Tuesday, 5/8	9:00 a.m. Elise Reising
Wednesday, 5/9	9:00 a.m. Tom Procter 7:30 p.m. Alexander O'Connor
Thursday, 5/10	9:00 a.m. The Parnell Family (L)
Friday, 5/11	9:00 a.m. Winnie Gardner
Saturday, 5/12	9:00 a.m. Terry King, Jr. 5:00 p.m. <i>Pro populo</i>
Sunday, 5/13	8:00 a.m. For All Mothers 9:30 a.m. For All Mothers 11:15 a.m. For All Mothers 5:00 p.m. For All Mothers

+ In Memoriam Aeternam +

In your charity, please pray for the repose of the souls of Patricia Freel, mother of Jeffrey Freel, Antoinette Gomulinski, mother of Debra Gomulinski, Eleanor Rubbo, mother of Carl Rubbo.

Please pray for the sick....Maria Joseph, Dianne Palmer, Maria Patterson, Betty White, Nick Powers, Ed Dudenhoefter, Bob Coyne, 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 May 6, 2018

Sunday:	Acts 10:25-26, 34-35, 44-48/Ps 98:1, 2-3, 3-4 [cf. 2b]/1 Jn 4:7-10/Jn 15:9-17 or Jn 17:11b-19
Monday:	Acts 16:11-15/Ps 149:1b-2, 3-4, 5-6a and 9b [cf. 4a]/Jn 15:26--16:4a
Tuesday:	Acts 16:22-34/Ps 138:1-2ab, 2cde-3, 7c-8 [7c]/Jn 16:5-11
Wednesday:	Acts 17:15, 22--18:1/Ps 148:1-2, 11-12, 13, 14/Jn 16:12-15
Thursday:	Acts 18:1-8/Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4 [cf. 2b]/Jn 16:16-20
Friday:	Acts 18:9-18/Ps 47:2-3, 4-5, 6-7 [8a]/Jn 16:20-23
Saturday:	Acts 18:23-28/Ps 47:2-3, 8-9, 10 [8a]/Jn 16:23b-28
Next Sunday:	Ascension: Acts 1:1-11/Ps 47:2-3, 6-7, 8-9 [6]/Eph 1:17-23/Mk 16:15-20

THE MUSINGS OF THE PASTOR

Cardinal Wuerl promulgated a Pastoral Plan to implement Pope Francis' post-synodal apostolic exhortation, *Amoris Laetitia* (AL), on Sunday March 4, 2018. The fourth section of the Pastoral Plan stresses the importance of parish life.

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

Newly married couples begin building their life together as a family with hope, welcoming children, and laying down roots. Yet couples can also encounter unexpected struggles and unmet expectations early in their marriage. Pope Francis encourages them that "Young love needs to keep dancing toward the future with immense hope. Hope is the leaven that, in those first years of engagement and marriage, makes it possible to look beyond arguments, conflicts and problems and to see things in a broader perspective" (AL, 219).

Our parishes are rich with potential in helping young married couples find support for their marriage and family life. Newly married couples can benefit from experienced mentor couples to help them navigate the early years of married life, sharing responsibilities for the daily tasks of family life, preparing to welcome children, learning to pray as a family, and moving toward the inevitable challenges that come with work, extended family, financial concerns, etc.

Young married couples report that other ways in which they can be enriched by the graces of the Sacrament of Marriage include:

- Being generous with others in how you spend your time and money;
- Not waiting until you have children to get involved in spiritual and social activities at your parish community;
- Seeking out other young Catholic couples for mutual support and friendship;
- Forming habits that you want to continue when you have children eat dinner together at the table, pray before meals, continue to attend Mass together every weekend, incorporate your family traditions, etc. (e.g., Advent wreaths, house blessings, celebrating your baptism day or feast days); and
- Looking for ways to deepen your marriage, sharing date nights and experiences, such as Theology on Tap, marriage retreats, and joining a marriage enrichment group. Do not wait until your marriage is in trouble to invest in it.

Until next week,

Fr. John

Sixth Sunday of Easter

QUESTION OF THE WEEK

How can I improve my character so that I focus more on others' needs and less on my own needs? To whom can I reach out this week with my attention, time and energy?

THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD

May 10, 2018

Also known as Ascension Thursday is not a Holy Day of Obligation this year. The holy day transfers to the following Sunday, May 13.

WHAT DOES THE CATHOLIC CHURCH TEACH ABOUT INTERFAITH RELATIONS? UNDERSTANDING THE CHALLENGE

In less than two weeks, Rev. John Crossin, who worked with the U.S. bishops on promoting interfaith relations, will lead a discussion from 9:45-12 Noon Saturday, May 19, in the Parish Center. Representatives from other faith traditions will join in a panel to further the discussion. Save the date! For more information, contact St. Francis Social Concerns Ministry Tony Bosnick at abosnick@sfadw.org.

ST. MARTIN'S FOOD PANTRY IN GREAT NEED OF FORMULA, DIAPERS FOR BABIES

If you are looking to donate food items to the St. Martin's Food Pantry, organizers report they need several important items, particularly those for babies. The food pantry has reported a great need for Similac blue baby formula and disposable diapers for 5- to 6-month-old babies. It also requests:

- Meals in a can – such as stew, chili, canned ravioli and beefaroni
- Canned fruit
- Crackers and cookies
- Condiments
- Pasta sauce
- Dry, unsweetened cereals.

The pantry is reporting an oversupply of canned vegetables and dry Ramen noodle soup; it requests that donors hold off on these donations for a few months. On Saturday, May 12, the food pantry would greatly appreciate volunteers to help process food deliveries from postal service mail carriers, especially between 5:30-7:30 pm. For more information on student service or pantry volunteer work, leave a message for Chuck Smith at (301) 208-1858 or e-mail him at stmpantry@yahoo.com.

RECTORY TO SOON GET NEW ROOF FOLLOWING SPRING WINDSTORM

In the wake of a windstorm in March, the roof on the Rectory will soon be replaced and funded by both an insurance settlement and existing funds earmarked for construction.

During his report to the Parish Pastoral Council at its meeting April 18, Fr. John Dillon reported that the roof of the Rectory was damaged during the windstorm and will be replaced in its entirety. With the current 28-year-old roof nearing the end of its useful life, the parish solicited four competitive bids to replace it. All the bids were due back to the parish on Monday, April 30.

Following the damage, the parish filed an insurance claim with Catholic Mutual Group, the nonprofit insurance group that is part of the Catholic Church. It agreed to pay the church about \$7,000 – the cost of repairing the damaged portion of the roof. The balance of the cost of roof replacement – about \$15,000 -- will be funded by monies earmarked for construction and collected during a Forward in Faith campaign about 10 years ago.

Under other business, the Parish Pastoral Council also:

- Heard ministry reports from the Religious Education and Music ministries, as well as from St. Jude Catholic School.
- Discussed *Amoris Laetitia* (The Joy of Love), an apostolic exhortation by Pope Francis, for which the Archdiocese of Washington recently published a pastoral plan.
- Discussed the status of parishioner response to the Indicators of Vitality survey.
- Briefly talked about an *America Magazine* article on *Gaudete et Exsultate*, Pope Francis' new apostolic exhortation on holiness in everyday life.
- Reviewed a handout on the importance of securing the physical infrastructure of churches.

Please see the minutes of past meetings of the Parish Pastoral Council meeting on the parish web site, www.sfadw.org, under 'Serve' and 'Pastoral and Finance Councils.' The minutes from the April 18 meeting will be posted after the council approves them at its May 17 meeting. For more information about the Parish Pastoral council, contact asktheppc@gmail.com.

MOTHER'S DAY MASS CARDS

Cards will be available this weekend in the Gathering Space. This is a wonderful way to remember your Mother, Mother-in-law, Grandmother, Aunt, or anyone special at all the Masses on Mother's Day. Please return your spiritual bouquet envelope to the parish office on or before Wednesday, May 9.



PLANT SALE SATURDAY/SUNDAY MAY 19/20

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

May 6, 2018

LAMB OF GOD PRAYER MEETING Join the Lamb of God Prayer Group for worship and the study of Scripture on Tuesday, May 8, 7:30 p.m., St. Clare's Chapel in the Rectory. For details, please call Louise, (301) 977-5217.

POOR BOX DONATION – The donations for next week-end will go to the Shady Grove Pregnancy Center . *Thank you for your generosity.*

ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI PRAYER CHAIN If you have a prayer request, please contact Marianne Bullen, (301) 963-3420 or mariannebu@comcast.net with your requests.

ROSARY FOR PRIESTS

Every Wednesday evening at 6:45 p.m. we pray the rosary for our priests before the 7:30 p.m. Mass.

HOLY HOUR FOR THE DYING

On Thursday evenings in the St. Clare's Chapel in the Rectory, a prayer group meets at 7:00 p.m. to pray for the dying. This is a Holy Hour Devotion for the Dying. As a central work of our Catholic faith, we are called to pray for the dying, especially for those who may die suddenly, unprepared to face God. For additional information, please call the Parish Office, (301) 840-1407.

ROSARY CENACLE OF OUR LADY, QUEEN OF PEACE
Cenacle of Our Lady, Queen of Peace to pray for priests and vocations, 2:00 p.m. in the St. Clare's Chapel (Rectory) every Sunday. Please join us.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS - COUNCIL 2323

The Knights of Columbus are actively pursuing new members. Our council incorporates members from St. Francis, St. Mary's and St. Martin's. Though best known for our many charitable projects, we also have a lot of fun with dinners, fund raisers, family nights, and many other fraternal social occasions. If interested in learning more, please contact Gary Palmer, (301) 948-6494 or e-mail gtdbpalmer@verizon.net.

FORMER PARISHIONER MAUREEN PAGAN RETURNS TO SIGN THE 11:15 A.M. MASS TO THE DEAF COMMUNITY

If you are a longtime member of St. Francis of Assisi Church, then you've probably recognized a familiar face on the altar at the 11:15 am Mass. Maureen Pagan, a former cantor and member of the choir, returned to St. Francis of Assisi Parish last month to begin providing sign language interpretation of the Mass and music selections for the Deaf community and people with hearing loss at the 11:15 am Mass. Maureen and her husband, Ralf Pagan, an ordained Catholic deacon, were 2005 recipients of the Archdiocese of Washington's Order of Merit, an award honoring ordinary parishioners for their service to their parish and the archdiocese. *Welcome back, Maureen!*

ANNUAL YARD SALE IN THE PARISH CENTER

Saturday, May 12
8:00 a.m. - 12:00 Noon

Please sign-up *this weekend* to help with the Annual Yard Sale. We need lots of volunteers. You can also sign up by calling the Parish Office (301) 840-1407. This is a good fundraiser for the parish and a great chance to meet fellow parishioners. *Also, time to spring clean - we welcome your stuff you want to get rid of!*

VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE:

Come for the whole time or just a few hours. Whatever time you can work will be appreciated!

<i>Wednesday, May 9,</i>	<i>2:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.</i>
<i>Thursday, May 10,</i>	<i>2:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.</i>
<i>Friday, May 11,</i>	<i>2:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.</i>
<i>Saturday, May 12,</i>	<i>7:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.</i>

DROP OFF YOUR DONATIONS IN THE PARISH CENTER

Wednesday, May 9	2:00 - 8:00 p.m.
Thursday, May 10	9:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.
Friday, May 11	9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

INTERFAITH PARTNER TO SPONSOR AN ELECTION FORUM IN JUNE

Temple Beth Ami – with which St. Francis of Assisi's Pax Christi Ministry works to support refugee families – is sponsoring a community-wide election forum on the morning of Sunday, June 3. The forum will enable attendees to hear from all the candidates running for Montgomery County Executive this fall on a moderated panel. The program also includes concurrent sessions for families to hear from State Delegate candidates from District 15, 16, 17 and 39. Translators for native Spanish speakers will be made available, if attendees request that they would like one. Members of the public will also be able to register to vote onsite. For more information, contact St. Francis Social Concerns Minister Tony Bosnick at abosnick@sfadw.org.

MEMORIAL MASS FOR THE MILITARY SERVICES

On Sunday, May 20, the 24th Annual Memorial Mass will be held to honor those who have served, and are serving, in our nation's armed forces. The Mass will take place at 4:30pm at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception (400 Michigan Ave., NE). The principal celebrant and homilist will be Archbishop Timothy Broglio of the Archdiocese for the Military Services. Military personnel are encouraged to be in uniform, and civilians should wear business attire. Parking is limited and car-pooling is advised. To request seating or to obtain additional information, please visit www.milarch.org/memorialmass/laity-registration. If you have questions, contact Jo Ann Redmond at administration@milarch.org or 202-719-3600.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS/EVENTS

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CLASSES

This week (Sunday, Monday, and Tuesday, May 6, 7 and 8) is the final week for Religious Education classes for PreK-Grade 8 for this school year. Thank you to our catechists and volunteers who have helped to make this a successful year for our Religious Education Program. This parish is blessed to have so many wonderful catechists who volunteer their time each week to teach and share the faith. We pray that God will continue to bless each of them with his gifts of joy and peace!

As we look ahead to next year's Religious Education program, please consider whether you can serve as a catechist for our children and young people. If you would like to learn more about this important ministry, please contact Susan Anderson, Director of Religious Education, at 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 is today, Sunday, May 6, from 3:30-4:30 pm 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.

REMINDERS FOR CONFIRMATION CANDIDATES

Our Confirmation program continues as follows:

- *Confirmation Candidate Session:* Mon., May 14, 6:45-8:30 pm
- *Rehearsal with Sponsor:* Fri., May 18, 6:45-8:30 pm
- *Confirmation:* Mon., May 21, 7:00 pm

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION REGISTRATION 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 pm (*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 am
 - Monday afternoons, 4:45-6:00 pm
- Grade 6, 7, and 8 classes offered at two session times:
 - Monday evenings, 6:45-8:00 pm
 - Tuesday evenings, 6:45-8:00 pm
- Grades 9-12 (Youth Group) meet Sunday evenings 6:00-8:00 pm (following the 5 pm 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 am-4 pm). Classes are filled on a first-come, first-served basis. Please complete and return the registration forms as soon as possible!

YOUTH MINISTRY NEWS/EVENTS

ST. FRANCIS YOUTH MINISTRY

Upcoming Events

FRED

MAY

- 6 Be Eucharistic - 1 Corinthians 11:26
- 11/12 Montgomery County Lockout
(See Fr. Jack for more details)
- 13 NO FRED (Mother's Day)
- 20 Be Marian - Luke 1:27
- 27 NO FRED (Memorial Day)

JUNE

- 3 Aloha Party

GET SOCIAL

Follow us on Instagram & Twitter @ SFAFRED.

STATE OF MARYLAND ACCEPTING BOOST SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS THROUGH MAY 21

St. Francis parishioners with school-aged children are encouraged to apply for \$7.6 million in BOOST Scholarship money that will help income-eligible school-aged children in Maryland attend a nonpublic school of their parent's choice. Thanks to funding by the Maryland General Assembly, the available BOOST Scholarship funds rise to nearly \$8 million for the upcoming school year. Scholarship applications for the 2018-19 school year are being accepted through May 21, with several hundred scholarships expected to be awarded. BOOST Scholarship reports that every student who sought transfer from a public school last year was offered a scholarship. In addition, it reported that larger scholarships may be awarded to students with special needs for the upcoming school year.

To learn more about the BOOST scholarship, see <http://www.educationmaryland.org/BOOST>. If you have further questions, contact the BOOST Scholarship Coalition at (443) 510-4501.

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.

**HOOPS FOR HAITI BRINGS TOGETHER
ST. FRANCIS THROUGH BASKETBALL
FUN & FELLOWSHIP**

The Hoops for Haiti Basketball fundraiser on April 14 raised its stature as a fundraising event and St. Francis community building activity, netting about \$6,000 and involving more members from the St. Francis parish community than ever before.

Organizers Dan Cardile and Wendel Hall reported that about 100 people participated in the annual basketball fundraiser at Our Lady of Good Counsel High School to raise money for the Haiti ministries. Highlights this year included the first 3-on-3 Basketball Tournament that involved 10 teams made up of different St. Francis ministries; the public recognition of St. Francis parishioner Meghan Jones, who reached out to Cardinal Donald Wuerl to attend the event; and the main basketball game between the adults and youth, which the former group won, 60-55.

Proceeds from the event will go toward building a new roof on Conversion of St. Paul's Church in Leon, Haiti; the church suffered roof damage in 2016 from Hurricane Matthew. With more than half the liquid money raised, the actual rebuilding of the roof should begin soon, Cardile reported.

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

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 post-race celebration! 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%20Bolt%205K%20race)

SPRING ART SHOW & CHOIR AND BAND CONCERT
May 14th at 1:30 pm and 7:00 pm the SJRCS Choir and the Beginning and Advanced Bands will perform a spring concert. Artwork created by students in grades Pre-K to 8th grade will be on display throughout the school. Come and listen to our talented performers. See the creative under-the sea artwork floating above your head in the hallways.

**GIRLS ON THE RUN OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY
SPRING 5K** Please support our SJRCS Girls on the Run. The GOTR MoCo 5K, an untimed event, will be held on Sunday, May 20th at Westfield Montgomery Mall (8:00 am-arrival time / 9:00am-5k start time). Web site: <https://www.girlsontherunofmoco.org/5K-Detail#reg-details>

**GET READY, GET SET, AND GET IN CHARGE OF
YOUR HEALTH**

LIVING WELL: Diabetes Self-Management Workshop
Wednesdays, May 9 – June 13, 1 to 1:30pm
Bauer Drive Community Center
14625 Bauer Drive, Rockville, MD 201853

Is it possible to live a healthy and abundant life despite a chronic condition such as diabetes? The answer is overwhelmingly YES! Learn how to better manage your health and maintain an active lifestyle while living with type 2 diabetes or pre-diabetes at this FREE six week workshop. Family members and caretakers welcome. Registration required: (301) 754-880 or www.HolyCrossHealth.org.

SFA Health Ministry

Encouraging health and wellbeing in body, mind and soul

**Celebrating the Lord's Resurrection
and Planning for Your Own**

Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid. (John 14: 27).

These familiar words of Christ resonate with us at Easter. We understand that by the glorious Resurrection of Our Lord, death and sin are conquered and our destiny of eternal life is possible. These words from Jesus beg the question, "Are we prepared to "go in peace"? Can we say to our loved ones, "Let not your hearts be troubled." Perhaps the answers lie in first asking these questions,

- When is the right time to think about the healthcare decisions (advance directives) you would make for yourself in times of serious illness or at the end of life?
- When is the right time to appoint someone (healthcare agent) to carry out your choices if you could not speak for yourself?

A: when you are in good health or

B: when you are in a coma.

The answer is, of course, A. The problem? We are reluctant to even think or talk about the reality of our own mortality or the loss of loved ones, much less make decisions about it. For your peace of mind and spirit... and for your family's, the Catholic Bishops of Maryland address these concerns in their pastoral letter, Comfort and Consolation, Care of the Sick and Dying.

Relying on the underlying moral principles and wisdom of Church teaching, this letter outlines a process of discernment to guide our medical decision-making in times of illness and at the end of life. By providing a clear and concise understanding of church teaching it encourages families to have conversations and make choices in advance of critical illness or family crisis. The supplement publication, Healthcare Directives, A Catholic Perspective, includes both the Catholic Declaration for Health Care Decision Making and the Appointment of My Health Care Agent documents. Both documents have been designed to meet Maryland law and to give you an opportunity to express your wishes in a form that reflects Church teaching. Both publications, Comfort and Consolation, Care of the Sick and Dying and Healthcare Directives, A Catholic Perspective can be obtained from the SFA rectory office and are available at www.mdccathcon.org.

Additionally, the SFA pastoral staff and Betty Baklarz, RN, faith community nurse, are available for consultation.

Whether death comes unexpectedly or at the end of a long and full life, it is important for us to consider not only the spiritual dimension of death, but also to think in a very practical way about how we would want the circumstances of our death to reflect our deepest beliefs. We know that Jesus is coming for each of us at the hour of His choosing. Especially during this Easter Season we are reminded that we wait and prepare for His arrival, not in fear, but *full of expectant hope*.