

ST FRANCIS OF ASSISI, DERWOOD

Mass Intentions

January 7 - January 13

Monday, 1/7	900 a.m. Helen Mooney
Tuesday, 1/8	9:00 a.m. Paul Mc Gowan
Wednesday, 1/9	9:00 a.m. Laurin Balkam 7:30 p.m. Maria Morales
Thursday, 1/10	9:00 a.m. Antoinette Gomulinski
Friday, 1/11	9:00 a.m. Anthony Putano
Saturday, 1/12	9:00 a.m. Michael Early 5:00 p.m. Bob Coyne
Sunday, 1/13	8:00 a.m. <i>Pro populo</i> 9:30 a.m. Josephine Biasini 11:15 a.m. Rosemarie Rippel 5:00 p.m. John Gallahan II

+ In Memoriam Aeternam +

In your charity, please pray for the repose of the souls of Patricia Stehle Artman, cousin of Fr. John Dillon, Raymond E. Schmidt, father of Raymond F. Schmidt, Archdiocese of Washington.

Please pray for the sick... Donna Marchick, Dennis Parnell, Ed Dudenhoeffer, 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 January 6, 2019

Sunday:	Is 60:1-6/Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13 [cf. 11]/ Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6/Mt 2:1-12
Monday:	1 Jn 3:22—4:6/Ps 2:7bc-8, 10-12a [8ab]/ Mt 4:12-17, 23-25
Tuesday:	1 Jn 4:7-10/Ps 72:1-2, 3-4, 7-8 [cf. 11]/ Mk 6:34-44
Wednesday:	1 Jn 4:11-18/Ps 72:1-2, 10, 12-13 [cf. 11]/ Mk 6:45-52
Thursday:	1 Jn 4:19—5:4/Ps 72:1-2, 14 and 15bc, 17 [cf. 11]/Lk 4:14-22a
Friday:	1 Jn 5:5-13/Ps 147:12-13, 14-15, 19-20 [12a]/ Lk 5:12-16
Saturday:	1 Jn 5:14-21/Ps 149:1-2, 3-4, 5 and 6a and 9b [cf. 4a]/Jn 3:22-30
Next Sunday:	Is 40:1-5, 9-11/Ps 104:1b-2, 3-4, 24-25, 27-28, 29-30 [1]/Ti 2:11-14; 3:4-7/Lk 3:15-16, 21-22

THE MUSINGS OF THE PASTOR

Greetings on the Solemnity of the Epiphany. This is a rich and complicated Feast Day, which actually originated in the East. In Eastern Christianity, the emphasis was on the baptism of Jesus by John the Baptist (Matthew 3:13-17; Mark 1:9-11; Luke 3:21-22). Epiphany was introduced into Western Christianity in the fourth century. The word epiphany comes from a Greek word meaning “appearance” or “manifestation.” In Western Churches it is commonly linked to the visit of the Magi to the Christ child. Through the wise men Jesus Christ revealed himself to the Gentiles. We also commemorate another event as well on Epiphany: Jesus’ first miracle of turning water into wine at the Wedding of Cana. This signifies the manifestation of Christ’s divinity and his divine power as well.

In the early days of church history before Christmas was observed, Christians celebrated both the birth of Jesus and his baptism on Epiphany. The feast proclaims to the world that a child was born, would grow to adulthood, and die as a sacrificial lamb. Epiphany extends the message of Christmas by calling believers to manifest the Gospel to the whole world. We can see these points in the popular Christmas carol “We Three Kings.” Let’s look at some of the stanzas that illustrate these points:

“Born a King on Bethlehem’s plain/Gold I bring to crown Him again,/King forever, ceasing never./Over us all to reign.

“Frankincense to offer have I;/Incense owns a Deity nigh;/Prayer and praising, voices raising./Worshiping God on high.

“Myrrh is mine, its bitter perfume/Breathes a life of gathering gloom;/Sorrowing, sighing, breathing, dying,/Sealed in the stone cold tomb.

“Glorious now behold Him arise;/King and God and sacrifice;/Alleluia, Alleluia,/Sounds through the earth and skies.”

In Europe Epiphany celebrations are sometimes just as important as Christmas, with celebrants exchanging gifts today instead of on Christmas in some places. In other places people exchange gifts on both holidays! In Italian folklore, La Befana is an old woman who delivers gifts to children throughout Italy on the night of January 5 in a similar way to St. Nicholas or Santa Claus. A popular belief is that her name derives from the Feast of the Epiphany, which in Italian is Festa dell’Epifania.

A Christian legend had it that La Befana was approached by the biblical magi (the three Wise Men) a few days before the birth of the Christ child. They asked for directions to where the Son of God was, as they had seen his star in the sky but she did not know. She provided them with shelter for a night, as she was considered the best housekeeper in the village. They invited her to join them on their journey to find the Christ Child. La Befana declined, saying that she had too much housework to do. Later she had a change of heart, and tried to search for the Wise Men and the child Jesus. That night she was not able to find them. To this day La Befana is searching for the little baby. She leaves all the good children toys, candy or fruit, while the bad children get coal, onions, or garlic.

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

The Epiphany of the Lord

QUESTION OF THE WEEK

To whom do I pay homage? Are they worthy of respect?

STUDY THE GOSPEL OF LUKE WITH THE CHURCH GUYS

The Men of Emmaus are looking for a few good men to study the Gospel of Luke! If you'd like to study this well-known and rich narrative of the life of Jesus, then come join this group of men, ranging in life phase from teens to retirees. The group meets at 9 am on Saturday mornings in the Youth Room for doughnuts and coffee and discusses Scripture and how it applies to the lives of Christian men. Please join them for these discussions on the Gospel of Luke and other Scriptural writings. For more information, contact Men of Emmaus Ministry Coordinator Wendel Hall at wendel@halllawoffice.net.

COME JOIN US IN PRAYING THE ROSARY IN SPANISH

If you are a Spanish speaker, then consider joining the Spanish Ministry at St. Francis! The Spanish Ministry currently prays the Rosary in Spanish on the first and third Tuesdays of every month in the church. However, because of the New Year holiday, the Spanish Rosary will be prayed this month on Tuesday, January 8, and Tuesday, January 22, in the church. *Come join us!*

FIRST OFFERING OF "NAVIGATING YOUR FINANCES GOD'S WAY" SMALL GROUPS IS NOW FULL

Thank you to all the parishioners who signed up for a "Navigating Your Finances God's Way" Small Group that will start the first week of the January. The first offering of these Small Groups is now full; if you are interested in joining a second round of Small Groups after Lent, please contact Deacon Dan Finn at deacondan-finn@gmail.com.

THE MUSINGS OF THE PASTOR (continued)

A special feature of our own celebration of Epiphany will be the 5:00 pm Mass today, *the Mass for all God's Children*. This Mass especially recognizes children and adults with special needs and developmental differences in our communities. Special Events Ministry Coordinator Sylvia Jones and her volunteers will host a small reception after Mass. I always look forward to presiding at this Mass.

A final thought for today: Epiphany is a feast that recognizes the manifestation of divinity of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. As this new year begins, it would be good for us as believers to consider how Jesus manifested his destiny and how we can fulfill our destiny as believers as well.

Until next week,
Fr. John

BRING THE WHOLE FAMILY TO THE HAITI BENEFIT CONCERT ON FRIDAY, JANUARY 18

Have you thought about introducing your children, grandchildren, nieces or nephews to a live concert experience but are hesitant about paying steep ticket prices at a premiere music venue? Take them instead to our church at 7:30 pm Friday, January 18, for the Haiti Benefit Concert featuring Trio Sirènes, a musical trio comprised of flute, viola and harp players who perform with the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra. The trio – made up of Maria Kämper on flute, Karin Brown on viola and Jacqueline Pollauf on harp – will perform works by Claude Debussy and Astor Piazzolla. The event is open to the public and all are welcome! There will be no admission charged, but donations to the Haiti Medical Mission are appreciated. A reception of light savory hors d'oeuvres and dessert will follow the concert. For more information, contact Director of Music Janet Pate at sfadwmusic@gmail.com or Haiti Ministry Coordinator Dan Cardile at dancardile@yahoo.com.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR THE INFORMATION DESK

Interested in volunteering at St Francis but short on time? Become an Information Desk volunteer! Stay after the Mass you normally go to one or more times per month for 15 minutes to answer questions or help people with signing up for events. You pick the dates and Masses at which you can serve. Receive "on-the-job" training with another Information Desk volunteer after one Mass and you're ready to serve. It's a great activity for people new to the parish who want to learn more about St. Francis and meet other parishioners, as well as couples, families, teens and others. For more information or to volunteer, contact Ministry Coordinator Chris King at caking.home@gmail.com.

COLLECTION FOR CHURCH MISSIONS IN THE UNITED STATES

On the weekend of January 12-13, the Archdiocese of Washington will take up a collection for Church Missions in the United States. This collection supports home mission dioceses in this country that are unable to offer their people basic liturgical, pastoral, and service ministries without outside help. It also supports vulnerable Black and Native American communities with funds for parish support and evangelization needs. Thank you for your generosity.

January 6, 2019

LAMB OF GOD PRAYER MEETING Join the Lamb of God Prayer Group for worship and the study of Scripture on Tuesday, January 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 looking for new, transferring or readmitted members to share in their Charity, Fraternity, Unity and Patriotism activities. Council 2323 supports many St. Francis activities and has many social events. The KofC offers life and long term care insurance opportunities as well as annuities. A new opportunity: join as an Online Member for \$30 per year; go to www.kofc.org and click on "Join Us". If you wish you can join the Council later. If interested in learning more, contact Gary Palmer (301-948-6494 or email gtdbpalmer@verizon.net).

DROP-OFF YOUR GENTLY-USED WINTER OUTERWEAR

TO THE GATHERING SPACE THIS WEEKEND

Starting this weekend, the Gathering Space will become the collection spot for gently used coats, hats, mittens, gloves and scarves donated for the annual Catholic Charities Coat Drive. Please bring your clean, gently used outerwear to the Gathering Space this weekend or the weekend of January 12/13 to make the coldest winter months more bearable for people in need of warm clothing. Donations of new coats, hats, scarves and mittens are also welcome!

Volunteers to help sort the donations by size and gender are also needed after the 9 am Daily Mass on Wednesday, Jan. 16, in the Gathering Space. For more information, please contact Director of Social Concerns and Adult Faith Formation Tony Bosnick at abosnick@sfadw.org.

BROWN BAG CONVERSATION FOR JANUARY

"The Gift: Your Call to Greatness," by Christopher West
Sunday, January 13 from 1-2:30 pm. in the Rectory's Assisi Room.

Doors open at 12:45 pm for Brown Bag lunch and fellowship
"The human body includes right from the beginning... the capacity of expressing love, that love in which the person becomes a gift – and by means of this gift – fulfills the meaning of his being and existence." -

--St. John Paul II

In "Your Call to Greatness," an adult faith formation program, best-selling author and theologian Christopher West unfolds God's amazing plan for our life. This DVD teaching addresses some of the most fundamental and universal questions of human existence, including:

- What is our "call to greatness" and what is the key to unlocking it?
- What will bring the happiness we all long for?
- What is the "gift" that God desires to give us?
- What does it mean to be "made male and female in the image and likeness of God?"
- How can I live my life in a way that brings true happiness and fulfillment?

After the teaching, enjoy open, honest conversation with fellow parishioners. For more information, contact Adult Faith Formation Team Member Medy DeAussen, medydeausen@comcast.net.

BLOOD PRESSURE SCREENING

Please stop by the St. Clare Room after Mass next weekend to have your blood pressure checked. (Saturday, 5:00 p.m., Sunday, 8:00, 9:30, 11:15 a.m. Masses)

A WAY TO GROW.....Teams of Our Lady was founded by Father Henri Caffarel in France in 1947 and has spread to over 10,000 Teams world-wide. Teams came to the United States in 1958 where they are currently over 700 Teams. Teams of Our Lady is a lay movement officially recognized by the Holy See under the Pontifical Council for the Council for the Laity. A team is a group of five to seven couples and a spiritual advisor who meet once a month to share, pray and discuss challenges of living a Christian marriage and life. Couples use a time-tested format to meet their needs and desires of growing closer in love and faith through Teams of Our Lady and in the process they discover support for one another and for their marriage. For more information, please contact Fr. John in the parish office or Joe and Jeanne McElhaney at joenjeanne@mcelhaneysonline.com.

BEHOLD!

ADORATION & CONFESSION

Behold the face of God every Thursday evening from 7-8pm at the Saint John Paul II National Shrine in Washington, DC (3900 Harewood Rd., NE). During this time, there is Adoration with prayerful music, silence, and Confession. *Behold!* is hosted in collaboration with parishes in the Archdiocese of Washington. For more information, visit jp2shrine.org or email pas-toral.programs@jp2shrine.org.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS/EVENTS

CATECHISTS AND AIDES NEEDED

Additional volunteers are still needed in our Monday afternoon Elementary program and Monday evening middle school program. Please consider whether you can serve as a catechist or classroom aide for our children and young people. We need your help to keep our class sizes small. If you would like to learn more about this important ministry, please contact Susan Anderson, Director of Religious Education, at 301-258-9193.

RE CLASS SCHEDULE REMINDERS

Religious Education classes resume this week: January 6, 7 and 8.

CATECHESIS FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

Our parish offers monthly catechetical sessions specifically designed for children and youth with special needs and their families. Our next session will be on Sunday, January 13 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.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION SNOW CANCELLATION POLICY

If Montgomery County Public Schools are closed, and if schools are dismissed early, Religious Education classes, including Youth Group are also cancelled. This applies to Sunday classes as well if Montgomery County Public Schools announces cancellation of weekend school activities. Cancellation announcements will be recorded on the Religious Education Office phone (301-258-9193) and posted on the St. Francis Parish website and Facebook page ("St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church"). Whenever in doubt, please use your own judgment about local weather and driving conditions, and err on the side of safety when making decisions about bringing your child to class.

AMAZONSMILE ENABLES ST. FRANCIS TO INCREASE FUNDRAISING THROUGH ONLINE SHOPPING

Christmas Shopping is done, but St. Francis parishioners can still support our church whenever they're shopping online at Amazon.com. St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church recently became a recipient of AmazonSmile, which enables the church to receive 0.5 percent of the price of eligible AmazonSmile purchases you make. Go to <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/23-7174107> and start shopping! One caveat: we are currently listed as 'St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church, Location: Derwood, MA, not Derwood, MD.' Rest assured that when you use the link above, your funds will support our church. This inaccuracy will be changed soon, but in the meantime, the percentage of your purchases will go to support our St. Francis of Assisi Church of Derwood, MD. For more information, please contact Fr. Jack Berard at jberard@sfadw.org.

YOUTH MINISTRY NEWS/EVENTS

ST. FRANCIS YOUTH MINISTRY

UPCOMING EVENTS

JANUARY 2019

13 Youth Group Reconvenes
18 March for Life

GET SOCIAL

Follow us on Instagram & Twitter @ SFADWYOUTH.

Spotlight on St. Jude Regional Catholic School

www.StJudeRockville.org

ENROLLMENT FOR THE 2019-2020 SCHOOL YEAR OPENS JANUARY 1

Open enrollment for new families begins on January 1, 2019. During Open Enrollment applications will be taken on a first come first serve basis. Please register by following the links on our school website at www.stjuderockville.org. Go to Admission, then Apply Now, then Enrollment: [TADS: Online Registration and Enrollment](#).

OPEN HOUSE

We would love to share the story of our school with you. Attend St. Jude Regional Catholic School Open House to see our wonderful teachers in action and experience our welcoming community first-hand. SJRCS will be hosting an Open House on:

Wednesday, January 30, 2019
9:00-11:30 am and 6:00-8:00 pm

4th ANNUAL SJRCS INTERNATIONAL DAY!

We invite you to travel...
All Over the World!

Friday, February 1st at 10:00 am

We would love Parishioners to share their cultural heritage with the students. We are asking volunteers to set up a booth that represents your country of origin. The booth will contain different artifacts from your country (flags, posters, photographs, art, etc.) We are also asking that you bring samples of food from your country for the students to try at International Day (small appetizers, small desserts, etc.). This will be a fun community event for the parents and kids! Please email Mrs. Balog at: Katharine.Balog@stjuderockville.org to let her know what country you would like to represent, and how you would like to help. Thank you!

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. ANNUAL CELEBRATION

All are invited to the annual archdiocesan Celebration of the Legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. on Saturday, January 19 at 4:30 pm at St. Luke Catholic Church in Washington, DC (4925 East Capitol St.). This celebration of Dr. King's life provides a special occasion of renewed inspiration for courageous conversations that help us build respect and solidarity within our communities, bearing witness to God's boundless love for all the human family. For more information, contact the Office of Cultural Diversity and Outreach at 301-853-5335 or culturaldiversity@adw.org.

ANYWAY

*People are often unreasonable, illogical and self-centered; Forgive them anyway. If you are kind, people may accuse you of selfish, ulterior motives; Be kind anyway. If you are successful you will win some false friends and true enemies; Succeed anyway. If you are honest and frank, people may cheat you; Be honest and frank anyway. What you spend years building, someone could destroy overnight; Build anyway. If you find serenity and happiness, they may be jealous; Be happy anyway. The good you do today, people will often forget tomorrow; Do good anyway. Give the world the best you have and it may never be enough; Give the world the best you've got anyway. You see, in the final analysis, it is between you and God; It was never between you and them anyway.....**Mother Teresa***

MARRIAGE HELP

Retrouvaille (pronounced retro-vi) has helped tens of thousands of couples at all stages of disillusionment or misery in their marriage. This program can help you too. For confidential information about or to register for the February program beginning with a weekend on February 1-3, 2019 call (443) 400-7017, or email: 3015@retrouvaille.org or visit the web site at www.HelpOurMarriage.org

PARENTAL & SPOUSAL BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT GROUP

St. Elizabeth Bereavement Ministry will offer an eight-week bereavement support group series for adults who have experienced the death of a parent, spouse or significant other. The Winter Series will meet on Wednesday mornings, 10:00-11:30 a.m., from January 16-March 6. there is no fee, but REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED. To register contact Deacon Kevin Byrne at Kevin_bryne@verizon.net or Claudia McAuliffe, 301-881-1457.

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.

MOVING/CHANGE OF ADDRESS/E-MAIL

Please notify the parish office, 301-840-1407, of any changes in your address, e-mail or phone number. You may also send in changes to sfaparishoffice@sfadw.org. *Thank you!*

NATIONAL TELEPHONE ROSARY

A National Telephone Rosary in recognition of Fatima is held on the 13th of each month at 8pm by the National Council of Catholic Women. Call 515-739-1261 and insert code 703993#. Questions? Contact Province Director Cindy Perry at cindy.perry@hotmail.com.

STATE COUNCIL

OF THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS SOLICITING APPLICATIONS FOR ITS CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

The Maryland State Council of the Knights of Columbus will award three Catholic high school scholarship grants to sons and daughters of members of the Knights of Columbus and three Catholic high school scholarship grants to Catholic students in general. The scholarship descriptions are as follows:

- **The Frederick M. Gossman Memorial High School Scholarship**

Designed to help brother Knights who are members of Maryland councils, this scholarship helps pay tuition for the Knights' sons and daughters at accredited Catholic high schools. Three grants of \$1,500 per year, for up to four years, will be awarded. Awards are made based on academic excellence, personal qualifications and financial need. The children of deceased members are also eligible to apply.

- **The William J. O'Brien Memorial Catholic High School Scholarship**

This program is open to any Catholic student who lives in Maryland, including the children and grandchildren of a member of a Knights of Columbus council within Maryland's jurisdiction. Applicants must have been officially accepted at or be students at accredited Catholic high schools. Applications will be judged on academic excellence, personal qualifications and financial need.

More information on these scholarships can be found at www.kofc-md.org and by clicking on the 'Scholarship Opportunities' link. Interested persons can also obtain information and applications by writing to Maryland State Council Knights of Columbus State Scholarship Chairman; P.O. Box 165; Westminster, MD 21158. Please note that the application period for both scholarships is from October 1, 2018, to February 1, 2019. All applications must be received by the Scholarship Committee no later than February 1, 2019.

PILGRIMS, PINTS & POETS

Join St. Rose of Lima Parish Pilgrimage
Ireland 2019, June 22-July 1, 2019.

Tour Ireland's most famous Religious, historic
and Neolithic sites.

Father Agustin Mateo- Spiritual Advisor-Pastor of St. Rose
Co-leaders - Francesca Winch -owner of EireGoTours &
Christine Jeffrey-Director of Liturgy &
Adult Faith Formation-St. Rose of Lima

For full itinerary and cost info email: eire.go.tours@gmail.com
Or contact Christine Jeffrey cjeffrey@strose.com

FOR SINGLE CATHOLICS - 21st Annual Epiphany Party at St. Raphael Church, 1513 Dunster Road, Rockville; Saturday, January 12, starting at 7:00 pm Includes delicious Greek dinner, salsa dance lessons, complementary wine and beer, DJ and more. Send \$21 donation by January 3 to SCS Epiphany Party, St. Raphael's Church, 1590 Kimblewick Road, Rockville MD 20854, or by credit card at <https://slsociety.org/epiphany-payment>, \$25 cash or check at the door). For more information call 240-426-5589.