

## ST FRANCIS OF ASSISI, DERWOOD

### Mass Intentions

#### February 25 - March 3

|                        |  |
|------------------------|--|
| <b>Monday, 2/25</b>    | 900 a.m. Bishop Robert Morlino   |
| <b>Tuesday, 2/26</b>   | 9:00 a.m. Pari Ronda Davila  |
| <b>Wednesday, 2/27</b> | 9:00 a.m. Deacon Wil Pinder<br>7:30 p.m. Deacon Richard Schopfer   |
| <b>Thursday, 2/28</b>  | 9:00 a.m. Guy Beaven   |
| <b>Friday, 3/1</b>     | 9:00 a.m. Barbara Lynn Beall<br>7:30 p.m. Guy Beaven   |
| <b>Saturday, 3/2</b>   | 9:00 a.m. Andrew Hruszkewycz<br>5:00 p.m. Pat Bussard  |
| <b>Sunday, 3/3</b>     | 8:00 a.m. Laurin Balkam<br>9:30 a.m. Patrick Lee<br>11:15 a.m. <i>Pro populo</i><br>5:00 p.m. Bobbi Sullivan (L) |

#### + In Memoriam Aeternam +

In your charity, please pray for the repose of the soul of Gerri Trickett.

**Please pray for the sick...** Joe Sindoni, Tom Krafchik, Teresa Maguire, Eddie Lutheran, Rick Kreter, Jeff Smith, Jean Lea, Mary Lott, JoAnne Kirby, 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 February 24, 2019

|                     |   |
|---------------------|---|
| <b>Sunday:</b>      | 1 Sm 26:2, 7-9, 12-13, 22-23/Ps 103:1-2, 3-4, 8, 10, 12-13 [8a]/1 Cor 15:45-49/Lk 6:27-38 |
| <b>Monday:</b>      | Sir 1:1-10/Ps 93:1ab, 1cd-2, 5 [1a]/Mk 9:14-29  |
| <b>Tuesday:</b>     | Sir 2:1-11/Ps 37:3-4, 18-19, 27-28, 39-40<br>[cf. 5]/Mk 9:30-37                           |
| <b>Wednesday:</b>   | Sir 4:11-19/Ps 119:165, 168, 171, 172, 174, 175 [165a]/Mk 9:38-40                         |
| <b>Thursday:</b>    | Sir 5:1-8/Ps 1:1-2, 3, 4 and 6 [40:5a]/<br>Mk 9:41-50                                     |
| <b>Friday:</b>      | Sir 6:5-17/Ps 119:12, 16, 18, 27, 34, 35 [35a]/<br>Mk 10:1-12                             |
| <b>Saturday:</b>    | Sir 17:1-15/Ps 103:13-14, 15-16, 17-18<br>[cf. 17]/Mk 10:13-16                            |
| <b>Next Sunday:</b> | Sir 27:4-7/Ps 92:2-3, 13-14, 15-16 [cf. 2a]/1<br>Cor 15:54-58/Lk 6:39-45                  |

#### STEWARDSHIP REPORT

Figures were not available at the time of publication.

*Thank you for your continued support!*

#### THE MUSINGS OF THE PASTOR

During this Black History Month, I want to present three more leaders of African descent who are on their way to sainthood. My source for this material can be located on the website for the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops ([www.usccb.org](http://www.usccb.org)).

**Venerable Pierre Toussaint (1776-1853).** Venerable Pierre Toussaint was born a slave in Haiti. He became in time a philanthropist and the founder of many Catholic charities. As a slave, Pierre Toussaint was brought from Haiti to New York and apprenticed under a popular hairstylist in the city. He eventually became the most sought after hairdresser of high society women. Upon the death of his master, he gained his freedom and was very successful as one of the country's first black entrepreneurs. He became quite wealthy, but instead of spending lavishly on himself, he supported the Church and the poor. He and his wife sheltered orphans, refugees, and other street people in their home. He founded one of New York's first orphanages and raised money for the city's first cathedral. Even during yellow fever epidemics, Toussaint would risk his life to help others by nursing the sick and praying for the dying. Here is one of his sayings: *"I have never felt I am a slave to any man or woman but I am a servant of Almighty God who made us all. When one of his children is in need, I am glad to be His slave."*

**Mother Mary Elizabeth Lange (1784-1882).** Mother Mary Lange was the foundress and first Superior General of the Oblate Sisters of Providence (1829-1832), the first congregation of African American women religious in the history of the Catholic Church. On July 2, 1829, Elizabeth and three other women professed their vows and became Oblate Sisters of Providence. This congregation would educate and evangelize African Americans. They educated youth and provided a home for orphans. Slaves who had been freed were educated and at times admitted into the congregation. They nursed the terminally ill, sheltered the elderly, and even served as domestics at St. Mary's Seminary. She was born Elizabeth Lange, a native of the Caribbean, believed to be Cuban born of Haitian descent. By 1813 Providence directed her to Baltimore, Maryland where a large community of French speaking Catholics was established. Mother Mary Lange practiced faith to an extraordinary degree. In fact, it was her deep faith which enabled her to persevere against all odds. In close union with Jesus, she lived through disappointment and opposition until God called her home in 1882 at the Saint Frances convent in Baltimore, MD.

**Venerable Henriette Delille (1813-1862).** Venerable Henriette Delille was born in New Orleans, Louisiana, where she lived all of her life. She was determined to help those in need for the love of Jesus and for the sake of the Gospel. Henriette was also a person who suffered as she made her way through life, bearing crosses. She taught us that sanctity can be attained in following the path of Jesus. It was in this manner that she dealt with her troubles and major obstacles to achieve her goals.

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

## Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

### QUESTION OF THE WEEK

*How am I showing my mercy, my humanity toward others? Am I witnessing to the God-given Spirit within me?*



**OLD PALMS** – We will be collecting old palms through Sunday, March 3. Please place your palms in the Palm Collection Box in the Gathering Space.

### ASH WEDNESDAY

#### Mass Schedule – March 6

9:00 a.m. 12:00 Noon 6:00 p.m. 7:30 p.m.

#### LENTEN SCHEDULE

**Daily Mass:** Mon thru Sat 9:00 a.m.  
Wed 7:30 p.m.  
Our Lady of Perpetual Help Novena follows  
Wednesday Evening Mass

**Lenten Evening Prayer** Friday Evenings 6:40 p.m.  
**Stations of the Cross** Friday Evenings 7:00 p.m.

**Confession:** In addition to Saturday afternoon, Confessions will be heard each Wednesday evening during Lent before Mass 5:45 – 7:15 p.m. **(The Light is ON for you.)**

Confession is also heard 30 minutes before Daily Mass and Sunday Masses during Lent.

#### LENTEN REGULATIONS

**Fasting:** Ages 18-59 fast on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday, limiting themselves to one full meal.

**Abstinence:** Catholics age 14 and older abstain from meat on Ash Wednesday, Good Friday and all the Fridays of Lent

### THE MUSINGS OF THE PASTOR (continued)

Some of the troubles Henriette met were the resistance of the ruling population to the idea of a black religious congregation; the lack of finances to do the work; the taunts and disbelief of people in her mission; the lack of support from Church and civil authority; and poor health. However, Henriette practiced heroic virtue. She had faith, lived in hope and love. She was compassionate, forgiving, and merciful. She believed in justice and was not afraid to do what was right in the eyes of God. God blessed her efforts. And in 1842, she founded the Congregation of the Sisters of the Holy Family. Henriette died on November 17, 1862. Her obituary states, "...Miss Henriette Delille had for long years consecrated herself totally to God without reservation to the instruction of the ignorant and principally to the slave."

Until next week,  
**Fr. John Dillon**

### ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

All are welcome! Join the Ministry of Eucharistic Adoration and assist with adoration in the following manner:

- *Become a regular attendee at adoration in the Parish.*
- *Pray that Eucharistic Adoration will increase.*
- *Foster Eucharistic Adoration in our parish by evangelizing His Eucharistic Presence.*
- *Deepen your personal relationship with Jesus in the Most Blessed Sacrament.*

### PLEASE NOTE SCHEDULE CHANGE

**First Friday Adoration (March 1) will begin at 3:00 p.m. and end at 7:00 p.m. First Friday Adoration is held in the St. Clare Chapel in the Rectory.**

### HOOPS FOR HAITI NEEDS YOUR HELP ON MARCH 23

For the price of a couple tickets to a basketball game, you can help build a church! The Hoops for Haiti basketball tournament is just around the corner on March 23, 2019, and our rallying theme is "Many Hands to Build One Church." Proceeds from this annual fundraiser will help finish work on the church building at our sister parish, St. Paul's of the Conversion Parish, which was badly damaged when Hurricane Matthew struck Haiti in 2016. Some of the reconstruction and renovation work will include a new roof and enhancement of the sanctuary. The Hoops for Haiti fundraiser offers St. Francis parishioners a fun, full day of fellowship, including a 3-on-3 basketball tournament that will kick off the main game between the Ol' Saints (adult team) and the Swole Saints (young adult and youth team). **So, how can you help support this basketball fundraiser at Our Lady of Good Counsel High School in Olney?**

- Have members of your St. Francis ministry form a three-member team to compete in the 3-on-3 Basketball Tournament preceding the main game. In 2018, parish ministries, such as the Health Ministry, Contemporary Choir and others joined in the fun. To register a 3-on-3 team in the mini-tournament, contact Haiti Ministry Coordinator Dan Cardile at [dancardile@yahoo.com](mailto:dancardile@yahoo.com).
- Come to the main game! Families, couples, individuals and their friends, neighbors and relatives are invited to enjoy family-friendly entertainment, test their hand at Bible trivia, indulge in some good concession food and relish the fellowship of our church.

For more information about Hoops for Haiti, please contact Fr. Jack Berard at [sfayouth@sfiadw.org](mailto:sfayouth@sfiadw.org) or Youth Ministry CORE member Wendel Hall at [wendel@halllawoffice.net](mailto:wendel@halllawoffice.net).

### Altar Servers Schedule

**Please check the online Ministry Scheduler for March 2 & 3.**

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

**LAMB OF GOD PRAYER MEETING** Join the Lamb of God Prayer Group for worship and the study of Scripture on Tuesday, February 26, 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 weekend will go 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](mailto: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](http://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](mailto:gtdbpalmer@verizon.net)).

### LENTEN DAY OF REFLECTION ON APRIL 13 WILL HELP PARISHIONERS FOCUS ON THE BEATITUDES

Mark your calendar for the Lenten Day of Reflection to be held at 1 pm Saturday, April 13, in the church. The second annual Lenten Day of Reflection will focus on the Beatitudes, with a theme of "Rejoice and Be Glad: Our Call to Holiness and Happiness." Join attendees for Praise and Worship, singing, Eucharistic Adoration, learning from short talks, listening to personal witness and individual reflection time. Fr. John Dillon and Fr. Jack Berard will both speak, and young adults from Singles for Christ and the parish community will witness their faith. The day's two-and-a-half hour program will be followed by Confession from 3:30-4:30 pm and the Saturday Vigil Mass at 5 pm. For more information, please contact Adult Faith Formation Team Member Medy DeAussen at [medydeausen@comcast.net](mailto:medydeausen@comcast.net).

### LAST WEEKEND TO SIGN UP FOR LENTEN SMALL GROUPS!

This weekend, February 23/24, marks the last weekend to sign up for Lenten Small Groups! Come join your fellow St. Francis parishioners in studying the book, *Why I Am Catholic (And You Should Be Too)*, by best-selling Millennial author Brandon Vogt. In his new book, the content director for Auxiliary Bishop Robert Barron's Word on Fire Catholic Ministries offers a needed dose of confidence to practicing Catholics and gives a passionate argument for the truth and beauty of Catholicism as the one, true faith. You can sign up for a Lenten Small Group in the Gathering Space or by using the SignUp Genius links that were sent out through Flocknote. The small groups will be offered every day of the week at times that accommodate students, young adults, working and stay-at-home parents and retirees, with groups slated to begin meeting the first week of March. **Please consider this six-week-long opportunity to meet Jesus through a Small Group of St. Francis parishioners, and make friends in the process.** For more information about Lenten Small Groups, please contact Director of Social Concerns and Adult Faith Formation Tony Bosnick at [abosnick@sfadw.org](mailto:abosnick@sfadw.org).

### FAMILY LENTEN EVENTS FOCUS ON PRAYER, PENANCE, ALMSGIVING & FELLOWSHIP

Families, if you are beginning to think about Lent, please add these Lenten events specifically targeted to families to your calendar:

- *Weekend of March 2/3: Catholic Relief Services Rice Bowl in the Gathering Space* -- Pick up a Rice Bowl in the Gathering Space and collect Lenten alms that will benefit this relief agency's work in developing countries around the globe. The CRS Rice Bowl also offers meatless recipes that families are encouraged to make on Fridays during Lent.
- *Tuesday, March 5: Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner at 5 pm in the Parish Center* -- Come enjoy pancakes, sausage, and all the fixings the day before Ash Wednesday.
- *Wednesday, March 6: Ash Wednesday Mass in the church* -- Mass will be celebrated at 9 am, 12 Noon, 6 pm and 7:30 pm
- *Weekend of March 30/31: Catholic Charities Lenten Food Drive* -- Pick up a grocery bag in the Gathering Space to help collect food for the St. Martin Food Pantry this Lent.
- *Friday, April 19: Family Stations of the Cross at 1 pm in the church* -- Join our parish youth in retracing the steps of Jesus as he prepared to be crucified at Golgotha.

Learn about other parish events for young families by signing up for the Families of School-Aged Children Flocknote Group. Register for Flocknote by going to the homepage of [www.sfadw.org](http://www.sfadw.org) and following the directions for selecting Flocknote Groups.

## 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 5<sup>th</sup> Grade in June 2019 to join us at Vacation Bible Camp, June 24-28 from 9:00 am to 12:15 pm. Look for camper registration information, as well as information about volunteer opportunities for adults and teens, in the Spring!

### 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 today, Sunday, February 24 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.

### CONFIRMATION RETREAT: SATURDAY, MARCH 2

Confirmation Candidates are reminded that our Confirmation Retreat will be on Saturday, March 2, beginning in the Parish Center at 10:00 a.m. and concluding with 5:00 p.m. Mass. Parents are asked to attend the 5:00 p.m. Mass with the Confirmation Candidates.

### 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.

### SURVIVORS OF SEXUAL ABUSE INVITED TO BEGIN HEALING AT ARCHDIOCESAN RETREATS

As the Catholic Church continues to minister to all survivors of abuse, the Archdiocese of Washington is sponsoring retreats for survivors. The Archdiocese will offer a men's retreat on April 5-7, 2019, and a women's retreat on April 12-14, 2019 for survivors. These retreats are an occasion for survivors to reflect on God's plan for their lives and for healing through prayer and the sacraments. For more information and to register, please go to <https://adw.org/the-way-retreat/> or call Deborah McDonald at (301) 853-4466. To protect the privacy of survivors, the locations of the retreats will not be publicized.

## YOUTH MINISTRY NEWS/EVENTS

### ST. FRANCIS YOUTH MINISTRY

### UPCOMING EVENTS

#### MARCH

- 2 ADW High School Youth Rally @ CUA
- 3 Youth Group
- 6 Ash Wednesday
- 10 Youth Group
- 17 Youth Group - St. Patrick's Day Party
- 23 Hoops for Haiti
- 24 Youth Group
- 29-31 Youth Retreat at SkyCroft Retreat Center  
- See Fr. Jack to register!
- 31 NO YOUTH GROUP

### GET SOCIAL

Follow us on Instagram & Twitter @ SFADWYOUTH.

### Spotlight on St. Jude Regional Catholic School

*We are...St. Jude*

[www.StJudeRockville.org](http://www.StJudeRockville.org)

### REGISTRATION FOR 2019-2020 SCHOOL YEAR

Please complete your registration for next fall! We have waiting lists in every grade from first through sixth and only 6 spaces remaining in Kindergarten. If you have any questions, contact Mrs. Donnelly, 301-946-7888 or visit [www.mainoffice@stjuderockville.org](http://www.mainoffice@stjuderockville.org)

### DINO-MITE BOOK FAIR & FAMILY READING NIGHT ARE COMING TO SJRCS

The Scholastic Book Fair will bring to St. Jude's the books kids want to read! We will have a great selection of engaging and affordable books for every reading level. Please join us! All proceeds go to purchase books for our school library.

Book Fair dates: March 19-21 Shopping hours: 8:am to 4 pm

Family Reading Night – March 19 from 6:00 – 7:30 pm

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

### GIRLS ON THE RUN AND HEART & SOLE ARE BACK FOR THE SPRING SESSION!

These programs inspire girls to be joyful, healthy and confident using a fun, experience-based curriculum which creatively integrates running. Join the Fun! Girls in 3rd through 5th grade are invited for GOTR and girls in 6th through 8th grade for Heart & Sole. You don't even have to love running. Learn about yourself! Explore who you are and build your confidence. Hang out with friends! Dance!

**WHEN:** Practices will be on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 3:30 pm to 4:45 pm from March 12<sup>th</sup> until May 23<sup>rd</sup>.

**COST:** The regular fee for the program is \$175, but financial scholarships are granted based on financial need.

**HOW:** Please visit <https://www.girlsontherunofmoco.org/ Register-Now> to register.

**UPCOMING EVENT:** March 7 - Faculty & Parent/ Student Basketball Game

## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED TO SERVE AS ESOL TEACHERS FOR CATHOLIC CHARITIES

Are you interested in helping teach English as a Second Language to people who need help? Catholic Charities needs volunteers to teach English as a Second Language one morning each week at the Catholic Charities Family Center in Silver Spring. Volunteers will work in pairs using the Cambridge Press Ventures curriculum and teachers' guidebooks. College graduates are preferred, and teaching experience is appreciated, but not necessary. Catholic Charities will provide three teacher training sessions on the following dates:

- 10 am to 1 pm on Tuesday, Feb. 26.
- 10 am to 1 pm on Thursday, March 7.
- 9:30 am to 12 Noon on Saturday, March 16.

Volunteers are expected to attend all three training days at Catholic Charities, 12247 Georgia Ave., Silver Spring, MD. The English classes will be held at the Catholic Charities Silver Spring office from 10 am to 12 Noon on Tuesdays and Thursday mornings. Classes begin in mid-March through May. To apply to serve as an English teacher, call Laura Yeomans at (202) 315-9440 or e-mail her at [Laura.Yeomans@CC-DC.org](mailto:Laura.Yeomans@CC-DC.org).

**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 10:30am on WDCW-50:

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

## TELEPHONE ROSARY FOR HEALING

The Washington Archdiocesan Council of Catholic Women (WACCW) is hosting a telephone Rosary call from now until September 4, with the special intention of healing for all hurt by individuals within the Church. All are welcome to join the call at 8pm EST, Mondays-Saturdays, at 605-468-8016, code 357090#. For more information, contact Sharon O'Brien, WACCW President, at [ArchdioceseCCW@gmail.com](mailto:ArchdioceseCCW@gmail.com), and follow on Facebook at [Facebook.com/WashACCW](https://www.facebook.com/WashACCW).

## BEHOLD! ADORATION & CONFESSION

Behold the face of God every Thursday evening from 7-8 pm 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](http://jp2shrine.org) or email [pastoral.programs@jp2shrine.org](mailto:pastoral.programs@jp2shrine.org).

## AMAZONSMILE ENABLES ST. FRANCIS TO INCREASE FUNDRAISING THROUGH ONLINE SHOPPING

St. Francis parishioners can 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! For more information, please contact Fr. Jack Berard, [jberard@sfdw.org](mailto:jberard@sfdw.org).

## MONTGOMERY COLLEGE STUDENTS INVITED TO JOIN A CATHOLIC CLUB

Are you a student at Montgomery College's Rockville or Germantown Campus and interested in helping to start a club for Catholic students? If so, or if you know of someone who is, contact Robert Stamper at [rstamper@montgomerycollege.edu](mailto:rstamper@montgomerycollege.edu). Being Catholic is a part of our identity, on campus and off. This is an opportunity to merge your college experience with your faith, and to help others do the same!

**DONATE YOUR USED CLOTHING** If you are sorting through gently used clothing to give away, remember that there is a St. Vincent de Paul clothing collection bin in the lower parking lot. Donations of clean clothing in good repair is greatly appreciated. Please put clothing in a plastic bag and deposit in the slot at the top of the bin. Collections are made weekly and will be a great blessing to those in need in the region.

**A REMINDER FROM FR. JOHN ...** If anyone is living in a marriage that has not been recognized by the Catholic Church, it would be wise to consult with a priest to see whether that situation might be rectified. It could be as simple as repeating your marriage vows quietly in front of a priest and receiving the Church's blessing. In that way, one would become eligible to receive the Sacraments of the Church, especially the Eucharist

## 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](http://www.catholiccharitiesdc.org/familypeace)

**PREKINDERGARTEN/HEAD START PROGRAMS FOR LOW-INCOME MONTGOMERY COUNTY RESIDENTS**  
Registration for the Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) Prekindergarten/Head Start Programs for low-income Montgomery County residents with children who will be four years old by September 1, 2019 is opening March 1 for the school year 2019-2020. Registration for a limited number of openings for the Head Start eligible children, residing in certain areas of Germantown, Rockville and Takoma Park, who will be 3 by September 1, 2019 is also open. For more information regarding required documents and registration locations and times, please contact Prekindergarten/Head Start at 240-740-4530 or check the MCPS website and search prekindergarten ([www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org](http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org)).