

ST FRANCIS OF ASSISI, DERWOOD

Mass Intentions

March 11 - March 17

Monday, 3/11	900 a.m. Carol Gianelli
Tuesday, 3/12	9:00 a.m. Roy Meade
Wednesday, 3/13	9:00 a.m. Bertrand Cassidy 7:30 p.m. Lena & Anthony Pinto
Thursday, 3/14	9:00 a.m. Don Smith
Friday, 3/15	9:00 a.m. Pari Ronda Davila
Saturday, 3/16	9:00 a.m. George Berard 5:00 p.m. <i>Pro populo</i>
Sunday, 3/17	8:00 a.m. Timothy Knestout 9:30 a.m. Laurin Balkam 11:15 a.m. Terence Ethridge 5:00 p.m. Lisa Orthman

+ In Memoriam Aeternam +

In your charity, please pray for the repose of the soul of Terry Gusciora, father of Melisa Biedron.

Please pray for the sick... Tom Krafchik, Joe Sindoni, 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 March 10, 2019

Sunday:	Dt 26:4-10/Ps 91:1-2, 10-11, 12-13, 14-15 [cf. 15b]/Rom 10:8-13/Lk 4:1-13
Monday:	Lv 19:1-2, 11-18/Ps 19:8, 9, 10, 15 [Jn 6:63b]/Mt 25:31-46
Tuesday:	Is 55:10-11/Ps 34:4-5, 6-7, 16-17, 18-19 [18b]/Mt 6:7-15
Wednesday:	Jon 3:1-10/Ps 51:3-4, 12-13, 18-19 [19b]/Lk 11:29-32
Thursday:	Est C:12, 14-16, 23-25/Ps 138:1-2ab, 2cde-3, 7c-8 [3a]/Mt 7:7-12
Friday:	Ez 18:21-28/Ps 130:1-2, 3-4, 5-7a, 7bc-8 [3]/Mt 5:20-26
Saturday:	Dt 26:16-19/Ps 119:1-2, 4-5, 7-8 [1b]/Mt 5:43-48
Next Sunday:	Gn 15:5-12, 17-18/Ps 27:1, 7-8, 8-9, 13-14[1a]/Phil 3:17-4:1 or 3:20-4:1/Lk 9:28b-36

THE MUSINGS OF THE PASTOR

From February 21-24, 2019, the Vatican hosted a Meeting on the Protection of Minors in the Church. Over two hundred bishops representing 180 Bishops' Conferences from around the world were in attendance. In addition several different bishops or patriarchs in charge of different Eastern Rites of the Catholic Church participated in this historic gathering. Cardinal Séan O'Malley, Archbishop of Boston, participated in the Conference. He reported in his most recent blog post (<http://www.cardinalseansblog.org>) that all the talks were excellent. He was particularly moved by the address of Dr. Valentina Alazraki, a veteran Vatican journalist from Mexico who gave a compelling presentation on the role of the media and what the Church's relation to the media needs to be. Another very compelling testimony was given by Sister Veronica Openibo. Pope Francis gave the concluding address at the conference in which he underscored dimensions of the problem of sexual abuse of minors both inside and outside the Church. There are the eight points of action with which he ended his speech. I will give the first four in this week's column and the other four in next week's column:

1) The protection of children. The primary goal of every measure must be to protect the little ones and prevent them from falling victim to any form of psychological and physical abuse. Consequently, a change of mentality is needed to combat a defensive and reactive approach to protecting the institution and to pursue, wholeheartedly and decisively, the good of the community by giving priority to the victims of abuse in every sense. We must keep ever before us the innocent faces of the little ones, remembering the words of the Master: "Whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in me to sin, it would be better for him to have a great millstone fashioned around his neck and to be drowned in the depth of the sea. Woe to the world because of scandals! For it is necessary that scandals come, but woe to the man by whom scandal comes (Mt 18:6-7).

2) Impeccable seriousness. Here I would reaffirm that "the Church will spare no effort to do all that is necessary to bring to justice whosoever has committed such crimes. The Church will never seek to hush up or not take seriously any case" (Address to the Roman Curia, 21 December 2018). She is convinced that "the sins and crimes of consecrated persons are further tainted by infidelity and shame; they disfigure the countenance of the Church and undermine her credibility. The Church herself, with her faithful children, is also a victim of these acts of infidelity and these real sins of "peculation" (ibid). [Peculation is the wrongful appropriation or embezzlement of shared or public property, usually by a person entrusted with the guardianship of that property.]

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

First Sunday in Lent

QUESTION OF THE WEEK

*Where do I encounter temptation? When do I give in?
How do I withstand it?*

WEDNESDAY

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

Beginning Wednesday, March 13th, Wednesday Adoration will be held in the Church, 9:30 a.m. - 7:15 p.m. This only applies to Lenten time. Once Lent is over, Adoration will move back to the Rectory (Wednesday, April 24th).

PAX CHRISTI MEETING

A Pax Christi meeting will be held on Monday, March 11th at 7:30 pm in the Youth Room of the Rectory. Due to the recent inclement weather, this will be a joint meeting with the members of the St. Rose Pax Christi Group. All are welcome to attend.

THE MUSINGS OF THE PASTOR (continued)

3) Genuine purification. Notwithstanding the measures already taken and the progress made in the area of preventing abuse, there is need for a constantly renewed commitment to the holiness of pastors, whose conformity to Christ the Good Shepherd is a right of the People of God. The Church thus restates “her firm resolve to pursue unstintingly a path of purification, questioning how best to protect children, to avoid these tragedies, to bring healing and restoration to victims, and to improve the training imparted in seminaries...An effort will be made to make past mistakes opportunities for eliminating this scourge, not only from the body of the Church but also from that of society” (ibid.). The holy fear of God leads us to accuse ourselves—as individuals and as an institution—and to make up for our failures. Self-accusation is the beginning of wisdom and bound to the holy fear of God: learning how to accuse ourselves, as individuals, as institutions, as a society. For we must not fall into the trap of blaming others, which is a step toward the “alibi” that separates us from reality.

4) Formation. In other words, requiring criteria for the selection and training of candidates to the priesthood that are not simply negative, concerned above all with excluding problematic personalities, but also positive, providing a balanced process of formation for suitable candidates, fostering holiness and the virtue of chastity. Saint Paul VI, in his encyclical *Sacerdotalis Caelibitatus*, wrote that “the life of the celibate priest, which engages the whole man so totally and so sensitively, excludes those of insufficient physical, psychic and moral qualifications. Nor should anyone pretend that grace supplies for the defects of nature in such a man” (No. 64).

Until next week,
Fr. John Dillon

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 (3:30-4:30 p.m.), Confessions will be heard each Wednesday evening during Lent before Mass 5:45 –7:15 p.m. **(The Light is ON for you.)**

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

LENTEN FOOD DRIVE TO KICK OFF ON MARCH 30/31

As part of your offerings this Lent, consider donating some non-perishable food items to benefit the St. Martin’s Food Pantry during the Catholic Charities Food Drive taking place the weekend of March 30/31. The annual food drive benefits families in need, parish food pantries and local food banks. Grocery bags will be distributed after Masses the weekend of March 30/31; parishioners should return those bags with recommended items to Mass on April 6/7. Thank you for your generosity in taking part in this annual event. For more information, contact Director of Social Concerns and Adult Faith Formation Tony Bosnick at abosnick@sfadw.org.



ENCOUNTER LENT

*CRS Rice Bowls Help Us Practice Generosity to Our Poorest
Brothers and Sisters in Foreign Countries*

Have you picked up your Catholic Relief Services’ Rice Bowl from the Gathering Space yet? If not, then meet Norma. In Guatemala, we encounter her, supporting her family and sharing her skills with the community as a young mother. Reflect on the importance of family in your life. How can you contribute to support families in your community? Visit crsricebowl.org for more information. For specific questions, please contact Director of Social Concerns and Adult Faith Formation Tony Bosnick at abosnick@sfadw.org

March 10, 2019

LAMB OF GOD PRAYER MEETING Join the Lamb of God Prayer Group for worship and the study of Scripture on Tuesday, March 12, 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 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 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).

FAITH DIRECT - ONLINE GIVING

Fast. Pray. Give up your Envelopes! We invite you to help St. Francis of Assisi by giving up your offertory envelopes this Lent! Enrolling with Faith Direct will provide the church with consistent support and simplify your giving without the wasteful envelopes. Join us in giving up envelopes this Lenten season! Signing up is easy! Visit www.faithdirect.net and use our church code: **MD110**, or **text the word ENROLL** to (Text-to-Give Phone Number) Thank you for your continued support of our parish family!

God Bless You,

Fr. John

ITALIAN CELEBRATION OF ST. JOSEPH'S TABLE

All Italians or Italian descendants are invited to join the members of the Roma Lodge for an Italian Celebration of St. Joseph's Table that will be held Monday, March 18th, 6:30 p.m. at Our Lady of Grace Church Hall (located on the back left of the church). Please contact Kathleen Caponiti at 301-717-6644 to confirm you will be joining the celebration. Please bring any meatless dish, vegetable, fruit salad, fresh fruit or dessert.

COLLECTION FOR THE CHURCH IN THE DEVELOPING WORLD - On the weekend of March 16-17, the Archdiocese of Washington will take up a collection for the Church in the Developing World. This collection is directed toward the Church in Latin America, Central and Eastern Europe, and Africa. It supports evangelization, the education of clergy and laity, youth ministry, catechesis, social service programs, and church construction and renovation. The faithful in these areas are often limited in what they can contribute, so your generosity will provide support for areas of ministry we often take for granted in our archdiocese.

HOOPS FOR HAITI JUST AROUND THE CORNER

You heard them at the pulpit, and now see them on the court! Just two more weeks until our Hoops for Haiti basketball fundraiser will bring the Ol' Saints and the Swole Saints back into battle at 7:30p pm at the Our Lady of Good Counsel High School Gymnasium in Olney. The basketball game offers a great way to enjoy a fun family event, while supporting the Haiti Ministry. Come at 4:30 pm for the 3-on-3 basketball tournament and stay for Bible trivia, fun games, great food, face painting and the main game. For more information about Hoops for Haiti, please contact Fr. Jack Berard at sfayouth@sfadw.org or Youth Ministry CORE member Wendel Hall at wendel@halllawoffice.net.

RCIA - The Rite of Election and Call to Continuing Conversion will take place today at 3:00 at the Shrine of the Immaculate Conception. The Rite of Election and Call to Continuing Conversion is a significant moment in the initiation process of the Catechumens and Candidates. This rite signifies God's choice of the Catechumens and their response to His call. After this rite the Catechumens will be called "the Elect". The St. Francis of Assisi community, represented by the godparents and sponsors, will give witness to God's election of the Catechumens and recognition of the Candidates. Please, pray for our Catechumens, Matt Perisin and Julia-Emma Mutombo and our Candidates, Clara Grothe, Emma Grothe, Erick Funte, and My-Linh Rouil as they move from the Rite of Election into the final period of preparation for initiation at the Easter Vigil.

The Penitential Rite will be celebrated at the 11:15 Mass on Sunday, March 17. The Penitential Rite is celebrated for the RCIA Candidates (those who are already baptized). It serves to mark the Lenten purification of the Candidates who are preparing to receive the Sacraments of Confirmation and Eucharist. Along with the Candidates, the sponsors and the St. Francis community, also, participate in the celebration of the penitential rite. All participants, in their own different ways, will hear the comforting message of pardon for sin, for which we will praise the Father's mercy.

The Scrutinies will be celebrated Sunday, March 24th at the 5 pm Mass, Sunday, March 31st at the 11:15 Mass, and Sunday, April 7th at the 9:30 Mass. The scrutinies are rites of self-searching and repentance for the Elect (those who are not baptized) who are seeking initiation into the Catholic faith at the Easter Vigil. They are meant to uncover, then heal all that is weak or sinful in the hearts of the Elect; and to bring out, then strengthen all that is upright, strong and good. During our Lenten journey, we should use the penitential rite of the candidates and the scrutinies of the elect to prepare ourselves for Easter.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS/EVENTS



SAVE THE DATE FOR VACATION BIBLE CAMP!

St. Francis of Assisi Church invites children from age 4 to those who will complete the 5th Grade in June 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, March 10 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.

FIRST EUCHARIST PARENT MEETING

A reminder to families of children preparing to celebrate First Eucharist this year: the next First Eucharist Parent Meetings will be held this week, on Wednesday, March 13 or Thursday, March 14 at 7:30 pm in the Parish Center. Parents are asked to attend one of these meetings. If you have questions, please call the Religious Education Office, 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.

YOUTH MINISTRY NEWS/EVENTS

ST. FRANCIS YOUTH MINISTRY

UPCOMING EVENTS

MARCH

- 10 Youth Group
- 17 Youth Group - St. Patrick's Day Party
- 20 Sweetz Cheesecake Order Forms Due
- 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

NATIONAL JUNIOR HONOR SOCIETY (NJHS) INDUCTION CEREMONY

St. Jude students will be inducted in to the NJHS on March 13 at 7:00 in the Thaddeus Room. The National Junior Honor Society is the nation's premier organization established to recognize outstanding middle school students. More than just an honor roll, NJHS serves to honor those students who have demonstrated excellence in the areas of scholarship, service, leadership, character, and citizenship.

DINO-MITE BOOK FAIR 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: 8:00 am to 4:00 pm

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

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

CALLING ON KIDS

FOR THE PARISH CREATION PLAY!

Does your mini budding thespian want to take part in a Creation Play right here at St. Francis of Assisi Parish? On Sunday, May 5, the St. Francis Music Ministry will stage a play, *New Creation*, in the church and we need children in grades one through seven to participate! Participants will have opportunities for solo speaking, solo singing and chorus singing parts. Rehearsals for the play will begin Tuesday, March 12, from 5:15-6 pm. There will also be a dress rehearsal at 11 am Saturday, May 4. The play will take place at 1:30 pm Sunday, May 5. For more information, please contact Music Ministry Director Janet Pate at sfadwmusic@gmail.com or call her at (443) 812-5585.

I ♥
Cheesecake

CHEESECAKE FUNDRAISER DON'T FORGET TO ORDER YOUR CHEESECAKE FOR EASTER

Please support St. Francis Youth Ministry by ordering cheesecakes for Easter. This fundraiser runs until Wednesday, March

20. Sweetz Cheesecake in Gaithersburg will be providing the cheesecakes. Order forms are in this week's bulletin. You can also e-mail Fr. Jack @ jberard@sfadw.org.

COME CELEBRATE LENT WITH US

Here is a comprehensive list of Lenten events and activities happening at St. Francis of Assisi Parish throughout the season. Walk with Jesus this Lent through **prayer, penance and almsgiving.**

For Anyone:

- **Lenten Small Groups** on *Why I Am Catholic (And You Should Be Too)* – *Throughout Lent.* Join a Small Group of parishioners in reading and discussing this book by author Brandon Vogt. For more information, contact Director of Social Concerns and Adult Faith Formation Tony Bosnick at abosnick@sfadw.org.
- **Daily Reflection Books** from the Diocese of Saginaw (MI) – *Throughout Lent.* Prayerfully reflect each day during the 40 days of Lent. Limited quantity available in the Gathering Space.
- **Evening Prayers and Stations of the Cross** -- 6:45 pm on *Fridays throughout Lent.* Come pray and reflect on Jesus' ultimate sacrifice and crucifixion.
- **The Light Is On** -- 8:30-9 am from *March 7-April 17; 5:45 pm-7:15 pm Wednesdays from March 13-April 17; 3:30-4:30 pm Saturdays during Lent.* Receive God's grace through the Sacrament of Penance.
- **Knights of Columbus 2323 Lenten Fish Fries** -- 6-8 pm on *Friday, March 22; Friday, April 5; and Friday, April 12, at the Father Cuddy Hall in Derwood.* Help the Knights support charities through the Lenten fish fries. Adult and children's menus are available. Admission is \$8-\$10 for individuals 11 and over; \$5 for kids ages 10 and under. For more information, contact Dan Huff at Huffdar@gmail.com.
- **St. Francis Day for Forty Days for Life Campaign** -- 10 am-6 pm *Saturday, March 30, on Old Georgetown Road near the Carhart Clinic in Bethesda, MD.* Join other parishioners in prayer, fasting and in vigil for mothers considering an abortion and their babies waiting to be born. For more information, go to <https://40daysforlife.com/local-campaigns/bethesda/> or contact Respect Life Ministry Member Betty Baklarz at lbbaklarz@yahoo.com.
- **Catholic Charities Lenten Food Collection** – *Distribution of bags at Masses on March 30/31; bags to be collected after Masses on April 6/7.* Help support the St. Martin's Food Pantry with donations of non-perishable food items to benefit families in need. For more information, contact Food Pantry Ministry Co-Coordinator Carolyn Brauer at carolyn_brauer@yahoo.com or Christine Young at youngbodywork@hotmail.com.
- **Parish Penance Service** – 7 pm *Monday, April 1.* Receive God's forgiveness during our community penance service.
- **Lenten Day of Reflection** – 1-3:30 pm *Saturday, April 13.* Join us for praise and worship, Eucharistic Adoration, talks and personal witness. For more information, contact Adult Faith Formation Team Member medy-deausen@comcast.net.
- **Share the Cross display** – *Throughout Lent.* Support initiatives undertaken by the parish's Haiti Ministry by choosing a cross in the Gathering Space and returning it with a donation to our Haiti Ministry. For more information, contact Haiti Ministry Coordinator Dan Cardile at dancardile@yahoo.com.

COME CELEBRATE LENT WITH US (continued)

For Married Couples:

- **Day of Recollection for the Coastal and Mid-Atlantic Regions of Teams of Our Lady** -- 9:30 am-5 pm *Saturday, March 9.* Join us for a day of prayer, talks, small group discussions, penance and Mass. For more information, contact Fr. John Dillon at jdillon@sfadw.org.

For Young Adults:

- **Small Group** on *33 Days of Morning Glory* – *Throughout Lent.* For more information, contact Parochial Vicar Fr. Jack Berard at jberard@sfadw.org.

For Families with School-Aged Children:

- **Hoops for Haiti** -- 4:30 pm *Saturday, March 23, at the Our Lady of Good Counsel High School Gymnasium in Olney.* Come play in a 3-on-3 tournament against other St. Francis ministries and then enjoy the main basketball event between the Ol' Saints (adults) and the Swole Saints (young adults and youth). For more information, contact Haiti Ministry Coordinator Dan Cardile at dancardile@yahoo.com.
- **Family Stations of the Cross** – 1 pm *Friday, April 19.* Families can experience Jesus' ultimate sacrifice for us during His journey to Golgotha. For more information, contact Director of Religious Education Susan Anderson at sanderson@sfadw.org.
- **Catholic Relief Services' Rice Bowl Program** – *Throughout Lent.* Participate in this faith-in-action program that invites us to encounter the world's needs with the hope of the Resurrection. Pick up a Rice Bowl in the Gathering Space and return it there or to the Parish Office at the end of Lent. For more information, contact Director of Social Concerns and Adult Faith Formation Tony Bosnick at abosnick@sfadw.org.

START LENT OFF BY JOINING A SMALL GROUP THIS SEASON

With Lent having just begun five days ago, it's not too late to sign up for a Lenten Small Group. Join more than 70 parishioners gathering in one of eight Small Groups this Lent, either in people's homes, at church or in the community. The Small Groups are reading and discussing the book, *Why I Am Catholic (And You Should Be Too)* by best-selling author Brandon Vogt. Guided by a self-explanatory Study Guide, the groups will meet for six weeks during Lent, deepening their relationship with Jesus Christ and beginning new friendships with parishioners who they may have otherwise never known. If you don't think you have enough time for a Small Group, then please reconsider. If you know you'll have to miss a week or two during Lent, then no matter. **Meet Jesus anew through a Lenten Small Group!** To find an open Small Group still accepting members, please contact Tony Bosnick at abosnick@sfadw.org.

CANAAN DAY OF PRAYER & HEALING

Having unresolved feelings about your abortion experience? Returning guilt, shame, regret or sadness? You just don't feel forgiven? **Come to an Entering Canaan Day of Prayer & Healing**, Saturday, March 23, 9:00 am - 5:30 pm. Sponsored by Project Rachel Ministry,. For additional information, please call 301-928-2008 or email hope@adw.org. Location and contacts are confidential due to personal nature of this experience.