

ST FRANCIS OF ASSISI, DERWOOD

Mass Intentions

September 2 - September 8

Monday, 9/2	90:0 a.m.	All Workers (L)
Tuesday, 9/3	9:00 a.m.	Reverend Thomas A. Gude
Wednesday, 9/4	9:00 a.m.	Elsie Mastronardi
	7:30 p.m.	Arturo Sto Domingo
Thursday, 9/5	9:00 a.m.	Silbestra Ordonia
Friday, 9/6	9:00 a.m.	Barbara Lynn Beall
	7:30 p.m.	Guy Beaven
Saturday, 9/7	9:00 a.m.	Peggy Layer
	5:00 p.m.	Dominick D' Aurora
Sunday, 9/8	8:00 a.m.	Theresa Wolz
	9:30 a.m.	<i>Pro populo</i>
	11:15 a.m.	Margaret Pinchock
	5:00 p.m.	Liberty Millendez

+ In Memoriam Aeternam +

In your charity, please pray for the repose of the souls of Donald Bumbernick, grandfather of Reverend Joseph Cwik, Connie Fernandini, Barbara Wassler, sister-in-law of Mary O'Sullivan, Richard Giovanoni, Jr. brother of Reverend Peter Giovanoni, St. Michael's Parish, Barbara Cox, sister-in-law of Kathy Cornwell..

Please pray for the sick... Leeann Parnell, Tom Breece, Sandra Kimball, 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 September 1, 2019

Sunday:	Sir 3:17-18, 20, 28-29/Ps 68:4-5, 6-7, 10-11 [cf. 11b]/Heb 12:18-19, 22-24a/Lk 14:1, 7-14
Monday:	1 Thes 4:13-18/Ps 96:1 and 3, 4-5, 11-12, 13 [13b]/Lk 4:16-30
Tuesday:	1 Thes 5:1-6, 9-11/Ps 27:1, 4, 13-14 [13]/Lk 4:31-37
Wednesday:	Col 1:1-8/Ps 52:10, 11 [10]/Lk 4:38-44
Thursday:	Col 1:9-14/Ps 98:2-3ab, 3cd-4, 5-6 [2]/Lk 5:1-11
Friday:	Col 1:15-20/Ps 100:1b-2, 3, 4, 5 [2b]/Lk 5:33-39
Saturday:	Col 1:21-23/Ps 54:3-4, 6 and 8 [6]/Lk 6:1-5
Next Sunday:	Wis 9:13-18b/Ps 90:3-4, 5-6, 12-13, 14-17 [1]/Phlm 9-10, 12-17/Lk 14:25-33

THE MUSINGS OF THE PASTOR

I am writing this column after having returned from my brief visit to Butler, Pennsylvania to visit family and friends. While I was in Butler I saw clear evidence of the opioid epidemic that has plagued various parts of the country, particularly Pennsylvania, West Virginia, and Ohio. A priest ministering in Pennsylvania said that he saw the impact of the opioid crisis in people walking the streets, high all day, and being so blatant to the point that they are shooting up in public and not even trying to hide it. When I was in Butler, I talked with a long-standing acquaintance about the impact of the opioid crisis in my hometown. He expressed the frustration of many who want to be compassionate but become angry and frustrated when they see addicts passed out or stealing from people to get money to purchase more drugs.

I read recently that the epidemic really began in the 1990s when pharmaceutical companies began producing powerful opioid painkillers and telling doctors and nurses that patients who received them would not become addicted. They made this claim even though some of the prescription drugs are almost molecularly identical to heroin. It was not long before it became clear that these drugs were just as addictive. Jesuit Father Brian O'Donnell, the executive director of the Catholic Conference of West Virginia remarked that "Doctors were told that they could hand this stuff out like candy, no problem. Well, that was just the beginning of a downward spiral for many people." The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimates that the total "economic burden" of prescription opioid misuse alone in the United States is \$78.5 billion a year. This estimate tries to factor in the costs of health care, lost productivity, treatment, and the involvement of the criminal justice system. Dr. Michael Horne, a licensed clinical psychologist who serves as director of clinical services for the Diocese of Arlington, VA, also notes that it is not just the deaths, which are tragic in and of themselves, but it is also the fallout around the people who are struggling with addiction—even those who are able to regain their sobriety.

Those who work with people in recovery often speak of the need to tackle the stigma often associated with addiction, notably to heroin and now to fentanyl, a powerful synthetic opioid that is similar to morphine but fifty to a hundred times more potent. Fentanyl is typically given to patients with severe pain or for pain management after surgery. A sense of shame and taboo still is prevalent in society even after years of outreach and public awareness campaigns. Families often say that they didn't want to mention that a loved one was addicted to opioids because of the stigma attached to this. They wondered how they could ever tell those around them that this was going on in their families. I thoroughly agree with Dr. Michael Horne who believes that it is helpful when parishes can cultivate a judgment-free environment where addiction is recognized as a disease.

The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* (No. 2291) says that use of drugs inflicts very grave damage on human health and life. Their use, except on strictly therapeutic grounds, is a grave offense. But given that addiction is now understood to be a chronic disease that changes both brain structure and function, the culpability of the addict can often be greatly, if not completely, diminished.

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

Twenty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time

QUESTION OF THE WEEK

I am invited to receive Jesus in the Eucharist, though I admit, "Lord, I am not worthy." Whom can I invite into my life, though they may be unworthy?

ARE YOU MISSING SOMETHING?

Perhaps for some reason, you have not completed your Sacraments of Initiation, which consist of Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist. Have you been attending Mass with your Catholic spouse or fiancé? Would you like to know more about the Catholic faith? The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults or RCIA may be for you. Classes will begin Wednesday, September 11, but now is the time to get information. For more information, we invite you to e-mail Director of Social Concerns and Adult Faith Formation Tony Bosnick at abosnick@sfadw.org or call him at (301) 840-1407. There is no obligation, just information.

PARISH OFFICES WILL BE CLOSED MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 2ND FOR LABOR DAY

THE MUSINGS OF THE PASTOR (continued)

I have mentioned in a previous column that I have been encouraged by a pastoral letter that Bishop Edward Malesic, Bishop of Greensburg, PA, wrote in 2017 about the drug abuse crisis. Toward the end of the letter he makes a number of recommendations that I offer for prayerful consideration for what parishes could do (and what our parish might do):

- Parishes are encouraged to work with existing neighborhood, nonprofit, and government organizations to promote safe communities and neighborhoods to be free from drugs. In our efforts, we do not intend to duplicate any existing programs. Rather, we hope to provide what the Church does best: prayer, education, and support.
- Parish Pastoral Councils and other parish leaders are encouraged to read, ponder, and implement this pastoral letter according to their local circumstances.
- Priests and Deacons are invited to continue to offer spiritual support and, when appropriate, to speak about the drug abuse issue in homilies and during other formational opportunities.
- Parishes or regions of parishes are asked to consider developing support groups to help those addicted to opioids and their families to develop a deeper relationship with Jesus to give them strength.
- Parishes are asked to maintain a list of treatment centers and their phone numbers for referral purposes when the need arises.
- Parishes should consider holding ongoing opportunities for prayer and healing related to the addiction crisis, especially by interceding at Mass for the recovery of addicted people and the healing of their loved ones.

Until next week,
Fr. John

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.*

First Friday Adoration (September 6) will begin in the Church following the 7:30 p.m. Mass until 9:00 p.m.

FALL MINISTRY RETREAT TO HELP PARISH VOLUNTEERS CULTIVATE MISSIONARY DISCIPLES

Have you ever wondered how you could help cultivate missionary disciples of Jesus Christ? Come to the Fall Ministry Retreat to be held from 9:45 am-12:45 pm Saturday, September 28, in the church for an engaging session led by Dr. Susan Timoney, associate professor of practice pastoral studies area at The Catholic University of America. Dr. Timoney will lead a discussion on "Living as Missionary Disciples," focusing on the characteristics needed by pastoral leaders to grow missionary disciples.

The retreat will be both pastoral and practical, serving as a valuable day for ministry leaders and volunteers. All are welcome! For more information about the Fall Ministry Retreat, please contact Director of Social Concerns and Adult Faith Formation Tony Bosnick at abosnick@sfadw.org

SPANISH MINISTRY MEMBERS LEAD THE ROSARY IN THEIR NATIVE TONGUE EVERY WEEK

The Spanish Ministry is now praying the Rosary in Spanish at 6:30 pm every Tuesday in the church. Please join ministry leaders Deacon Will Garcia and his wife, Lourdes, in this ministry, which allows everyone to pray this universal prayer of our church in Spanish. For more information, please contact Deacon Will at wagarcia@gmail.com or Lourdes at legarcia@gmail.com.



SEPTEMBER 2019 LUNCH – The St. Francis Lunch Bunch will meet on Wednesday, September 4 at 12:00 Noon at the Yard House Restaurant, 211 Rio Boulevard, Gaithersburg 20878, 240-863-8790.

If you are planning to attend, please contact Mary Lou Habib and she will save a seat for you, (301) 417-0243.

September 1, 2019

LAMB OF GOD PRAYER MEETING Lamb of God Prayer Group will meet on Tuesday, September 3 in the St. Clare Chapel. For details, please call Pat, (301) 963-9196.

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).

Good Luck to all St. Francis Students.

Have a great year!



CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY COLLECTION

This Archdiocesan collection will be taken on the weekend of September 7/8. CUA provides an academically rigorous education guided by Catholic intellectual tradition to nearly 7,000 students every year. More than 4,000 students, including many from our archdiocese, receive scholarship aid directly from this collection. Please give according to your means.

COME JOIN A SMALL GROUP THIS FALL

This fall, St. Francis of Assisi Small Groups will be back in full swing! Come find a community of like-minded people in our parish, who are meeting around Scripture studies, books of interest, healing in the wake of the clerical sexual abuse crisis and food. Please see some of the topics to be tackled by St. Francis Small Groups this fall:

Healing Our Church: Join Fr. John Dillon in discussing healing in the wake of the clerical sexual abuse crisis. Participants will frame their discussions around *Healing Our Church*, a book published by RENEW International, which contains survivors' stories, reflections, prayers and discussion. The Small Group will begin meeting at 7:30 pm Thursday, September 5, in the Assisi Room and will continue over six weeks through October 24. Participants are asked to offer \$7.50 toward the cost of the book, which retails at \$15 each. For more information, contact Fr. John at jdillon@sfadw.org.

Mary/Martha: On Wednesday, September 11, the Mary/Martha Small Group will begin reading and discussing the book, *Saint Mary Magdalene, Prophetess of Eucharistic Love*, by Fr. Sean Davidson. This group of women meets every other Wednesday at 7:30 pm in the Rectory's Youth Room for fellowship, with the opening prayer and Bible study beginning at 8 pm. The book examines the life of the woman who was the first to announce Jesus Christ's Resurrection. The group will also discuss her identity, which has stumped even biblical scholars. For more information, please contact Carolyn Brauer at carolyn_brauer@yahoo.com.

Men of Emmaus: At 9 am on Saturdays, the Men of Emmaus continue to read and discuss *Seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit* by Kevin Vost. The book presents in a readable format the seven gifts and how Catholics can submit their will to the stirrings of the Holy Spirit. For more information, contact Men of Emmaus Small Group Coordinator Wendel Hall at wendel@halllawoffice.net.

Gospel of Matthew: Beginning October 12/13, participants will kick off the Gospel of Matthew Small Groups with a video to be shown after the 5 pm Youth Mass. The nine-week session will then begin meeting, with five gatherings to take place before Christmas and four meetings to be held before Lent. For more information, contact Director of Adult Faith Formation and Social Concerns Tony Bosnick at abosnick@sfadw.org.

The Dining Disciples Small Group and the **Acts of Apostles Small Group** plan to reconvene this fall. Deacon Dan Finn also plans to offer another session of *Managing Your Finances God's Way*. If you are interested in any of these groups, please contact Deacon Dan at deacondanfinn@gmail.com.

In addition, Small Group facilitators are sought to lead Small Groups, so the parish can offer different dates and times that are conducive to participants' schedules. No requirements are necessary, other than a willingness to organize an agenda, pose questions and gently guide the discussion. If you are interested in serving as a facilitator, please contact Tony Bosnick at abosnick@sfadw.org.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS/EVENTS

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CLASSES BEGIN SEPTEMBER 15, 16 & 17!

Calendars are posted to the parish website, and are also being mailed to all who have registered.

If you have not yet registered your child for Religious Education classes, please be sure to register today, September 1, so that we can be ready to welcome your child on the first day of classes.

New registration forms must be submitted each year even for children who attended classes last year. If you do not know which Religious Education session will best match your family's schedule, please return a registration form now, marking your best guess for session time with a note indicating that this is subject to change.

Find registration forms on the parish web site (www.sfadw.org), in the Church Gathering Space, and in the Parish Office. Classes are filled on a first-come, first-served basis. Completed forms can be mailed, or dropped off in person at the Rectory Office (Monday-Friday, 8 am-4 pm).

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

Since our curriculum 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.

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.

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

YOUTH MINISTRY NEWS/EVENTS

ST. FRANCIS YOUTH MINISTRY

Watch for Upcoming Youth Events

Spotlight on St. Jude Regional Catholic School *We are...St. Jude* www.StJudeRockville.org

Dear St. Francis Community,

Welcome Back!!! The children have come back rested and ready, even though some of our middle schoolers are reluctant to admit it. The summer was incredibly busy, the Shrine renovation is almost complete! We will continue to improve this year, targeting the improvement of our classrooms and the greater physical plant. We have come so far in the past nine years, I am very excited about this school year and where year nine will take us.

We continue our financial stability, having another successful year. Many thanks go to all of you who continue to support this school and entrust us with your children. St. Jude is on a great path, and I look forward to the journey with you. I hope to see you at our School sponsored events, and I hope you have marked your calendar for November 9 for our Bulldog Bolt.

Upcoming Events:

- Thurs. Sept. 7 6:30 pm School Barbeque
- Tues. Sept. 10 7:00 pm Back to School Night for Middle School Parents
- Thur. Sept. 12 7:00 pm Back to School Night for Elementary School Parents
- Sat. Oct. 12 6:30 pm - Oktoberfest

WE are... back! WE are...strong! WE are...ready

Live Jesus in our hearts..... Forever!

~ Glen Benjamin, Principal

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (continued)

Ways to Serve

The entire parish community shares responsibility for faith formation and the support of many volunteers makes our programs successful. There are a variety of ways to serve, including weekly, monthly, and "as needed" commitments:

- Catechist
- Classroom Aide
- Art Team Catechist
- Substitute
- Support for Service Projects
- Help with Sacramental Celebrations & Special Events

Please consider supporting our Religious Education program as a volunteer! To learn more about this important ministry, please call the Religious Education Office at 301-258-9193.

ST. FRANCIS MUSIC GROUPS ARE SEEKING NEW MEMBERS

Come praise the Lord with us in song! St. Francis of Assisi Parish has several music groups that would welcome new singers and instrumentalists to enhance the liturgies of the 9:30 am, 11:15 am and 5 pm Youth Masses. If you are interested in joining a traditional choral group, a lively folk ensemble or a praise and worship youth band, then please consider joining us!

- The **Adult Choir** sings choral music at the 9:30 am Mass on Sundays and practices on Thursday nights. Help us lift the church in song! The choir enables singers of many talents to perform diverse arrangements and contribute to a traditionally minded and talented choral group. For more information, contact Director of Music Ministry Janet Pate at sfadwmusic@gmail.com.
- If you like to sing or you play an instrument, come join the **Contemporary Ensemble**. We lead music at the 11:15 am Mass on Sundays and practice on Tuesday evenings. Share your talents and join us in serving Christ, while enjoying fellowship. We are an intergenerational group and welcome people of all ages. Any children interested should be at least nine years old. For more information, contact Sue Madison at musikal76@msn.com or (301) 977-6854 or contact John Ryan at (301) 977-2690.
- The **Youth Band**, which sings and performs at the 5 pm Youth Mass, is seeking new members! The group, led by Marvin Arias, infuses St. Francis' last Mass of the weekend with praise and worship music many enjoy. The Youth Band practices before the 5 pm Youth Mass and welcomes people of all ages. For more information, contact Marvin at marvino.arias@gmail.com.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR ALL PARISH CATECHISTS Catechist Breakfast & Kick-off

Saturday, September 7, 9:30 am-12 pm in the Parish Center
We celebrate the start of this year's catechetical programs with our annual Catechist Breakfast for all parish catechists! Please join us in the Parish Center after the 9 am Mass to share breakfast and reconnect after a busy summer. We will take time to reflect on this year's Catechetical Sunday theme, "Stay with Us." Our morning will conclude with brief announcements about plans for this year. Please RSVP by calling the Religious Education office: 301-258-9193.

Catechetical Sunday Blessing of Catechists at all Masses Saturday, September 14 and Sunday, September 15

Those who the Community has designated to serve as catechists will be called forth to be commissioned for their ministry. Catechetical Sunday is a wonderful opportunity to reflect on the role that each person plays, by virtue of Baptism, in handing on the faith and being a witness to the Gospel. Catechetical Sunday is an opportunity for all to rededicate themselves to this mission as a community of faith.

When you attend Mass this weekend, all parish catechists and Catholic school teachers will be invited to present themselves for a blessing as part of the Prayer of the Faithful. For new and returning catechists, we thank you for allowing us to pray for you and bless your ministry.

SAVE THE DATE ST. FRANCIS ANNUAL HOLIDAY BAZAAR & FLEA MARKET Saturday, November 9

HOLIDAY BAZAAR CRAFTERS

We will begin making crafts for the 2017 Holiday Bazaar on Wednesday September 4 at 7:00 p.m. in the Parish Center. If you enjoy being creative and socializing with fellow parishioners, please plan on attending. Also, projects can be taken home to work on. For additional information, please call the Parish Office, (301) 840-1407.

VENDORS NEEDED

We are looking for vendors to sell their goods at the Bazaar. If you are interested in having a booth at the bazaar, please contact the Parish Office, (301) 840-1407.

SILENT AUCTION ITEMS NEEDED

We are looking for silent auction items such as Time Shares, Sports Tickets, Theater Passes, etc. for our Fall Bazaar (November 9). Items donated are a tax write-off! For more information or to make arrangements to donate, please call the Parish Office, Donna, (301) 840-1407.

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 8 consecutive Wednesday evenings will start September 11 through October 30, 2019, from 7:00-8:30 p.m. There is no fee, but REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED. To register contact Deacon Kevin Byrne at kevin_byrne@verizon.net or Claudia McAuliffe at 301-881-1457. St. Elizabeth's Church is located at 917 Montrose road, Rockville MD 20852.

Religious Education Catechist Meetings

New and returning religious education catechists are asked to note the following events as well:

New Catechist Orientation (Returning catechists are welcome too!): Thursday., September 5, 7:00-9:00 pm in the Assisi Room

- **Catechist Meetings by Session** (in the Parish Center):
 - * **Pre-K/K Catechists:** Sunday, September 8, 11:10-12:15 pm
 - * **Grade 1-5 Catechists:**
 - Sunday Session: September 8, 9:20-10:35 am
 - Monday Session: September 9, 4:45-6:00 pm
 - * **Grade 6-8 Catechists:**
 - Monday Session: September 9, 6:45-8:00 pm
 - Tuesday Session: September 10, 6:45-8:00 pm

SUBSTITUTE TEACHERS NEEDED

Mother of God School, a vibrant private Catholic school located in Gaithersburg, MD, is in need of substitute teachers for grades PreK – 8. For further information, please contact Alice Garvey at agarvey@mogschool.com or call 301-990-2088 ext. 11.