

ST FRANCIS OF ASSISI, DERWOOD

Mass Intentions

August 17-23

Monday, 8/17	9:00 a.m.	Frank Brown, Sr.
Tuesday, 8/18	9:00 a.m.	Stephen Vincent Dillon M.D.
Wednesday, 8/19	9:00 a.m.	Marie Galvin
	7:30 p.m.	Carlotta & Dina Da Silva
Thursday, 8/20	9:00 a.m.	Marie & James Galvin
Friday, 8/21	9:00 a.m.	Daniel Mastronardi
Saturday, 8/22	9:00 a.m.	Carol Jean Jordan
	5:00 p.m.	Richard & Pat Hunt
Sunday, 8/23	8:00 a.m.	<i>Pro populo</i>
	9:30 a.m.	Robert Praskievicz
	11:15 a.m.	Patsy & Stella Battista
	5:00 p.m.	Adolfo Arias, Jr.

Mass Intentions will be prayed for in a private daily Mass said by Fr. John if not prayed for in a public Mass.

+ In Memoriam Aeternam +

In your charity, please pray for the repose of the soul of Deacon John H. Nguyen, Archdiocese of Washington.

Please pray for the sick... Tony Montealgre, Allison Brauer, John McCormick, Frank Knorr, Allan Degen, Bob Jones, William Komlo, Joseph Michael Gardner, 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 August 23, 2020

Sunday:	Is 56:1, 6-7/Ps 67:2-3, 5, 6, 8 [4]/Rom 11:13-15, 29-32/Mt 15:21-28
Monday:	Ez 24:15-24/Dt 32:18-19, 20, 21 [cf. 18a]/Mt 19:16-22
Tuesday:	Ez 28:1-10/Dt 32:26-27ab, 27cd-28, 30, 35cd-36ab [39c]/Mt 19:23-30
Wednesday:	Ez 34:1-11/Ps 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6 [1]/Mt 20:1-16
Thursday:	Ez 36:23-28/Ps 51:12-13, 14-15, 18-19 [Ez 36:25]/Mt 22:1-14
Friday:	Ez 37:1-14/Ps 107:2-3, 4-5, 6-7, 8-9 [1]/Mt 22:34-40
Saturday:	Ez 43:1-7ab/Ps 85:9ab and 10, 11-12, 13-14 [cf. 10b]/Mt 23:1-12
Next Sunday:	Is 22:19-23/Ps 138:1-2, 2-3, 6, 8 [8bc]/Rom 11:33-36/Mt 16:13-20

THE MUSINGS OF THE PASTOR

Our Saturday morning book group has begun reading and discussing *The Seven Storey Mountain*, the autobiography of Thomas Merton, an American Trappist monk who was a noted author in the 1940s, 1950s, and 1960s. The title refers to the mountain of Purgatory mentioned in Dante's *Divine Comedy*. Pope Francis referred to Thomas Merton in his speech to the United States House of Representatives and Senate on September 24, 2015. Let's look now about what he said about Thomas Merton on that occasion:

A century ago, at the beginning of the Great War, which Pope Benedict XV termed a "pointless slaughter", another notable American was born: the Cistercian monk Thomas Merton. He remains a source of spiritual inspiration and a guide for many people. In his autobiography he wrote: "I came into the world. Free by nature, in the image of God, I was nevertheless the prisoner of my own violence and my own selfishness, in the image of the world into which I was born. That world was the picture of Hell, full of men like myself, loving God, and yet hating him; born to love him, living instead in fear of hopeless self-contradictory hungers". Merton was above all a man of prayer, a thinker who challenged the certitudes of his time and opened new horizons for souls and for the Church. He was also a man of dialogue, a promoter of peace between peoples and religions.

From this perspective of dialogue, I would like to recognize the efforts made in recent months to help overcome historic differences linked to painful episodes of the past. It is my duty to build bridges and to help all men and women, in any way possible, to do the same. When countries which have been at odds resume the path of dialogue – a dialogue which may have been interrupted for the most legitimate of reasons – new opportunities open up for all. This has required, and requires, courage and daring, which is not the same as irresponsibility. A good political leader is one who, with the interests of all in mind, seizes the moment in a spirit of openness and pragmatism. A good political leader always opts to initiate processes rather than possessing spaces (cf. *Evangelii Gaudium*, 222-223).

Being at the service of dialogue and peace also means being truly determined to minimize and, in the long term, to end the many armed conflicts throughout our world. Here we have to ask ourselves: Why are deadly weapons being sold to those who plan to inflict untold suffering on individuals and society? Sadly, the answer, as we all know, is simply for money: money that is drenched in blood, often innocent blood. In the face of this shameful and culpable silence, it is our duty to confront the problem and to stop the arms trade.

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

Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time

QUESTION OF THE WEEK

To what peripheries can I go to serve others? Do I see everyone as potentially eligible for salvation?

SUNDAY MASS VIA YOU TUBE

Fr. John or Fr. Patrick will say Mass every Sunday at 10 a.m. from the St. Clare Chapel. Please visit our website www.sfadw.org for more information and also the link to the Mass on Sunday. Details for other virtual services such as Praying the Rosary and Wednesday Evening Mass can also be found on our website.

FAITH DIRECT - ONLINE GIVING

I want to invite you in joining me and many others at St. Francis of Assisi in setting up recurring eGiving through Faith Direct. Thanks to eGiving, your weekly offertory will be automatically taken care of, which saves you time and saves our parish money by eliminating all those unused offertory envelopes. To sign up for electronic contributions visit www.faithdirect.net. The code for St. Francis is MD110 or text the word ENROLL to 301-804-2584. I want to thank you for your continued support of our parish family especially during these trying times. God Bless You, *Fr. John*

THANK YOU TO THOSE PARISHIONERS WHO CONTINUE TO SUPPORT THE PARISH DURING THESE DIFFICULT TIMES. WE APPRECIATE ALL THAT YOU HAVE DONE AND CONTINUE TO DO!!

THE MUSINGS OF THE PASTOR (continued)

Three sons and a daughter of this land, four individuals and four dreams: Lincoln, liberty; Martin Luther King, liberty in plurality and non-exclusion; Dorothy Day, social justice and the rights of persons; and Thomas Merton, the capacity for dialogue and openness to God.

Four representatives of the American people.

We will conclude this series next week, reporting once again on Pope Francis's historic visit to Congress.

Until then,
Fr. John

PRAYER OF SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

My Jesus, I believe that You are present in the most Blessed Sacrament. I love You above all things and I desire to receive You into my soul. Since I cannot now receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as if You were already there, and unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen

COMMUNION SERVICE SUNDAYS - 3:00-3:30 PM

Fr. John and Fr. Patrick will offer Holy Communion from 3-3:30 pm in front of the church to parishioners who are unable to receive the Eucharist during in-person Mass. Attendees should park their cars, put on a face mask and line up, maintaining six feet of distance between households or unrelated parties; please note that there may be two lines of people receiving Holy Communion.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS

Please see the last page for information on our new program format - an at-home model of catechesis instead of our usual in-person classes. Also, please share this information with others, especially those who will be new to our program.

ARE YOU CELEBRATING A SPECIAL WEDDING ANNIVERSARY THIS YEAR?

The annual Jubilarian Mass honoring couples married 25, 30, 35, 40, 45, 50 and 51+ years was to be held Sunday, **June 28, 2020**. It has now been **rescheduled to November 22, 2020** at 2:00 p.m. at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception. Please email the parish office to register dzezzo@sfadw.org. Please include the following information in your email:

- Name of the couple (as you want it printed on the certificate)
- Mailing Address
- Telephone Number or email
- Number of years married
- Will you attend the Mass if it is held

Names of Jubilarians need to be turned into the parish office on or before **Monday, September 14**. Please **do not call the parish office** as it is closed at this time. You can also mail in the above information to the Parish Office, ATT: Donna Zezzo.

CATHOLIC CHARITIES REMOTE INTERNSHIP OPPORTUNITY

Current undergraduate students looking for a remote internship opportunity are invited to apply to the Outreach and Events Intern at Catholic Charities D.C. for the Fall semester. The intern will work with our Volunteer Engagement Office to and will be responsible for project coordination and communication with our volunteers. This is a good position for someone interested in developing skills in community outreach, event coordination, and learning more about large non-profits. Interested students can find the full job description and apply online at <https://www.catholiccharitiesdc.org/2020-summer-internships/>

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

There's Still Time to Pre-Register for this year's Religious Education Program

For the 2020-21 program year, we will be supporting families with an at-home model of catechesis instead of our usual in-person classes. We are also planning a variety of ways to connect families with catechists and others in the parish community through outreach, online gatherings, and, as conditions allow, the possibility of in-person gatherings, all in support of your efforts to teach the faith at home.

Our program offerings for Kindergarten-Grade 8 will include the following:

1) An At-Home Catechesis Kit with the following resources:

- *Finding God* 2021 grade-level textbook for each child (K-8)
- 60-page (print out or digital access) of *Finding God* At-Home Edition parent lesson plans for each grade
- Access to online resources, including Interactive Session Reviews and Learning Games
- A Bible appropriate to your child's grade level

2) Religious Education Program Events facilitated by parish staff and volunteer catechists, including:

- 7 online sessions for parents using *Finding God* Family Catechesis program, offered in live and recorded formats
- Catechist outreach/Family Small Groups (parents choose one); 7 or more throughout the year
- Online Religious Education Program events for all; 7 throughout the year (any of these could be offered in-person as safety allows)
- Online class meetings with catechists for students in Grades 6-8; to be scheduled every 3 weeks; families choose Monday or Tuesday evening sessions

The registration fee for this year's program is \$100 per child. Complete the form to sign up for this year's program at this link:

<https://forms.gle/UnhwSYvUZyPDNfdH7>.

Payment is not required at this time. All who sign-up using the online form will receive a follow-up registration packet, payment information, and additional details about this year's program. (Please note: We never want finances to be a deterrent to faith formation. Please contact us if you have a situation that requires assistance.)

Information Regarding Sacramental Preparation for 2020-21 Sacramental preparation for Reconciliation, Eucharist, Confirmation, and full initiation in the adapted RCIA for children and teens seeking Baptism will also be offered in a blended program including online and at-home formats. Since preparing for a sacrament involves formation in addition to grade-level catechesis, sacramental preparation at St. Francis is not grade specific and children are expected to have participated in religious education in the year prior to preparing for a sacrament. Families requesting sacramental preparation for their child are asked to indicate this on the pre-registration form so that additional information can be provided. Please note that there is a separate materials fee for sacramental preparation programs.

Questions? Call the Religious Education Office at 301-258-9193 or email sfareligoused@sfadw.org.

WHEN WE GATHER FOR MASS PLEASE OBSERVE OUR GUIDELINES

WEAR MASKS

Face coverings are to be worn in and around the church for anyone over 2 years of age.

STAY 6 FEET APART

Physical distancing is practiced in the church and on the church property.

HOLY WATER

Fonts will be empty.

HOLY COMMUNION

Communion will be distributed only in the hand.

OFFERTORY

Baskets will be placed by the church doors for you to place your envelopes or donations.

HYMNALS & BULLETINS

All hymnals, prayer cards and other papers are not available. The bulletin will only be available online at our website.

SEATING

Seating by direction of an usher only. Please do not enter a pew until directed to do so.

RECRUITING SENIOR PARISHIONERS

The IGNATIAN VOLUNTEER CORPS (IVC) is a lay organization in the Jesuit tradition that provides meaningful service opportunities and spiritual formation based on the spirituality of St. Ignatius Loyola to those in their retirement years. As our communities reopen, many of our partner agencies have an increased need for the expertise and professional skills that our Service Corps Members provide. We are currently making ten-month placements for the service year that begins in the Fall, and it is possible to serve remotely in some circumstances. For an IVC application and more information on how you can make a profound difference to our community and Church, contact DC/Metro Maryland Director (and St. Francis parishioner) Mike Goggin at 202-277-4447 (cell) or mgoggin@ivcusa.org (e-mail)."

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 is a recipient of AmazonSmile, which enables the church to receive 0.5 percent of the price of eligible AmazonSmile purchases you make. **Go to our Home Page, Give, Give Now** and start shopping!

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.