

ST FRANCIS OF ASSISI, DERWOOD

Mass Intentions

January 25- January 31

Monday, 1/25	9:00 a.m.	Noah Scott McDonough
Tuesday, 1/26	9:00 a.m.	Wai Lin Lue
Wednesday, 1/27	9:00 a.m.	Fritz Mitchell
Virtual	7:00 p.m.	Joseph Michael Gardner
Thursday, 1/28	9:00 a.m.	Deacon Alfred A. Miller, Jr.
Friday, 1/29	9:00 a.m.	Noah Scott McDonough
Saturday, 1/30	5:00 p.m.	Amelia Dudenhoeffer
Sunday, 1/31	8:00 a.m.	Jessica Polissedjian
	9:00 a.m.	Chris Coffman
	12:00 p.m.	<i>Pro populo</i>

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

Please pray for the sick... Mary Dean, Josephine Fang, Bruce Hambidge, Mary Cutting, Angelica Santos, Jackie Komlo, Allison Brauer, John McCormick, Frank Knorr, Allan Degen, Bob Jones, William Komlo, Sandra Kimball, 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 24, 2021

Sunday:	Jon 3:1-5, 10/Ps 25:4-5, 6-7, 8-9 [4a]/ 1 Cor 7:29-31/Mk 1:14-20
Monday:	Acts 22:3-16 or Acts 9:1-22/Ps 117:1bc, 2 [Mk 16:15]/Mk 16:15-18
Tuesday:	2 Tm 1:1-8 or Ti 1:1-5/Ps 96:1-2a, 2b-3, 7-8a, 10 [3]/Mk 3:31-35
Wednesday:	Heb 10:11-18/Ps 110:1, 2, 3, 4 [4b]/Mk 4:1-20
Thursday:	Heb 10:19-25/Ps 24:1-2, 3-4ab, 5-6 [cf. 6]/ Mk 4:21-25
Friday:	Heb 10:32-39/Ps 37:3-4, 5-6, 23-24, 39-40 [39a]/Mk 4:26-34
Saturday:	Heb 11:1-2, 8-19/Lk 1:69-70, 71-72, 73-75 [cf. 68]/Mk 4:35-41
Next Sunday:	Dt 18:15-20/Ps 95:1-2, 6-7, 7-9 [8]/1 Cor 7:32- 35/Mk 1:21-28

COMMUNION SERVICE SUNDAYS - 1:30-2:00 PM

Fr. John offers Holy Communion from 1:30-2:00 pm in front of the church or in the Gathering Space depending on the weather 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

THE MUSINGS OF THE PASTOR

Today we are celebrating many things. First of all, today is Word of God Sunday, a feast that Pope Francis introduced in 2019 that is to be celebrated on the Third Sunday in Ordinary Time. Today is also Ecumenical Sunday, when we celebrate what God is doing through the many ecumenical agencies—local, regional, national, and international—that make up the modern ecumenical movement. We have been observing the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity since last Monday. The observance for 2021 will conclude tomorrow when we celebrate the Feast of the Conversion of Saint Paul.

The Church Unity Octave (eight days of prayer) was first observed in January, 1908. Celebrated in the chapel of a small Atonement Chapel of the Protestant Episcopal Church in upstate New York, this new prayer movement caught the imagination of others beyond the Franciscan Friars and Sisters of the Atonement to become a prayer movement that in time blossomed into a worldwide observance involving many nations and millions of people.

It is very interesting to look at the early history of the movement to fully appreciate the many streams that fed into it, so that it became an important opportunity to pray and work toward the unity of Christians. Two American Episcopalians, Father Paul James Wattson and Sister Lurana White, co-founders of the Franciscan Friars and Sisters of Atonement, were totally committed to the reunion of the Anglican Communion with the Roman Catholic Church. As such, they started a prayer movement that explicitly prayed for the return of non-Catholic Christians to the Holy See. Understandably such an observance would attract few of separated brethren except for a small number of Anglo-Catholics and Roman Catholics themselves. The idea of a period of prayer for Christian unity originated in a conversation of Fr. Wattson with an English clergyman, Rev. Spencer Jones. In 1907, Reverend Jones suggested that a day be set aside for prayer for Christian Unity. Fr. Wattson agreed with the concept but offered the idea of eight days of prayer between the Feast of the Chair of Saint Peter on January 18 and the Feast of the Conversion of Saint Paul on January 25.

When Fr. Paul and Sr. Lurana became Roman Catholics, Pope Pius X gave his blessing to the Church Unity Octave and in 1916, Pope Benedict XV extended its observance to the universal church. This recognition by papal authority gave the Octave its impetus throughout the Roman Catholic Church. Until his death in 1940 Fr. Wattson promoted the Church Unity Octave, later known as the Chair of Unity Octave to emphasize its Petrine focus.

It should be noted that popes had urged Roman Catholics to pray for Christian unity but from the particular stance of return to the Roman Catholic Church. In 1894, Pope Leo XIII encouraged Catholics to recite the rosary for the intention of Christian unity. Three years later he decreed that the days between Ascension and Pentecost should be dedicated to prayer for reconciliation with our separate brothers and sisters.

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

Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

QUESTION OF THE WEEK

The kingdom of God is at hand, within reach. How can I answer God's call and commit myself to help realize the kingdom of God here and now?

SUNDAY OF THE WORD OF GOD TO BE CELEBRATED NEXT SUNDAY, JANUARY 24

On Sunday, January 24, 2021, the universal Catholic Church will celebrate Sunday of the Word of God, an annual celebration decreed by Pope Francis dedicated to "the celebration, study and dissemination of the Word of God." The day seeks to inspire Catholics to discover or rediscover anew the constant dialogue God has with his people in the Holy Bible, a book held sacred by all Christian traditions. Access resources for Sunday of the Word of God at <https://www.usccb.org/committees/divine-worship/sunday-word-god> and contact Director of Social Concerns Tony Bosnick at abosnick@sfadw.org with any questions.

THE MUSINGS OF THE PASTOR (continued)

In 1935, Fr. Paul Couturier, a priest of the Archdiocese of Lyons (France), sought a solution to the problem of non-Roman Catholics not being able to observe the Eight Days of Prayer for Christian Unity. Using the Roman Missal as a basis for his suggestion, Fr. Couturier promoted prayer for Christian unity on the inclusive basis that "our Lord would grant to his Church on earth that peace and unity which were in his mind and purpose, when, on the Eve of His Passion, He prayed that all might be one." This prayer would unite Christians in prayer for that perfect unity that God wills and by the means that he wills. Like Fr. Wattson, Fr. Couturier exhibited a great passion for unity and sent out "calls for prayer" each year until his death in 1963.

While not all Catholics had accepted Couturier's solution and some continued to emphasize the centrality of the Petrine office in unity efforts and prayers, all difficulties were resolved in 1964 with the promulgation of the Decree on Ecumenism of the Second Vatican Council. The Decree told Roman Catholics in clear and unambiguous terms: "In certain special circumstances, such as in prayer services for unity and during ecumenical gatherings, it is allowable, even desirable, that Catholics should join in prayer with their separated brethren. Such prayers in common are certainly a very effective means of petitioning for the grace of unity, and they are a genuine expression of the ties which even now bind Catholics to their separated brethren."

Let us then on this Ecumenical Sunday remember the ardent prayer of Fr. Couturier that "our Lord would grant to his Church on earth that peace and unity which were in his mind and purpose, when, on the Eve of His Passion, He prayed that all might be one."

Until next week,

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

CONSTRUCTION WORK CONTINUES IN THE CHURCH

THROUGH JANUARY 29, IMPACTING WORSHIP

As Corbett Construction continues work in the church during this next phase of the facilities enhancement project, please remember the following impacts on worship in the church through Friday, January 29:

- Through Friday, January 29, the church will be closed to the public except for the three weekend Masses. The church will not be open for prayer during this period of construction work, but you can still pray on church grounds and at the Outdoor Stations of the Cross.
- In-person Masses on the weekend of January 23/24 will be celebrated at 50 percent of current capacity, meaning 75 people total can celebrate Mass at any one weekend liturgy. Signup for Masses will continue on a first-come, first-served basis, but some regular worshippers should plan to join us for the virtual Sunday Mass on our Parish YouTube Channel at https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC6uP6iX4cmy_6dzOl-KuP_w/videos.
- Daily Mass through January 29 will be celebrated in the Parish Center. The capacity for Daily Mass is limited to 15 worshippers, excluding the presider.
- Fr. John has asked pastors in our neighboring Catholic parishes if we can celebrate funeral Masses there during this period of disruption at our church.

We expect to be back in our church at full capacity for Masses the weekend of January 30/31. Daily Masses and funeral Masses should resume in the church on Monday, February 1. Thank you for your cooperation during this time of disruption to our worship over the next three weeks.

VIRTUAL MARCH FOR LIFE TO TAKE PLACE ON JANUARY 29

This year's March for Life will be held virtually on Friday, January 29, given the risks of congregating in large groups during the COVID-19 pandemic. Please check the March for Life web site at <https://marchforlife.org/> for updates. For more information, please contact Director of Social Concerns Tony Bosnick at abosnick@sfadw.org.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROGRAM UPDATES

- As noted on the Unit 3 checklist provided to all registered families by US mail, students are scheduled to complete lessons in their textbooks as follows:
 - * week of January 24: Session 12
 - * week of January 31: Session 13
 - * week of February 7: Session 14
- Online sessions for Middle School students will meet on January 11/12 and again on February 1/2.
- Special Needs Catechesis Class meets online at 3:30 p.m. on Sunday, January 24.

FIRST RECONCILIATION ON SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 6

Saturday, February 6 is our new date for First Reconciliation (with February 13 as a snow date). Reconciliation will be held in the church, with a number of priests available for confession. Appointment times will be set up for this Saturday morning and parents will be asked to sign-up in advance. This will allow us to maintain safe distance and limit the size of the gathering. Masks will need to be worn when in the church and on parish property, and, of course, hand sanitizer will be available.

Parents and other family members may also take this opportunity to celebrate the sacrament during your scheduled appointment time. If you have questions, please call the Religious Education Office, 301-258-9193.

MOTHER OF GOD CATHOLIC SCHOOL OPEN HOUSE

Saturday, January 23, 11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Sunday, January 24, 11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Pre-K, 3 & 4 year olds

Grades K-8

20501 Goshen Road in Gaithersburg. The school is expecting to enroll new students next school year without drastic social distancing requirements. Please register for either Open House or let the admissions staff know when a good time for you is to visit the school by please contact Melanie Brown, 301-990-2089, Ext. 11 or mbrown@mogschool.com.

4 STAGES OF MARRIAGE

The 4 stages of marriage are: (1) Romance, (2) Disillusionment, (3) Misery, and (4) Awakening. Many marriages experience the first 3 Stages. Marriages that end in divorce never make it to the 4th Stage of Awakening. Don't give up without learning about the 4th Stage of Awakening. If your marriage suffers from Disillusionment or Misery please contact Retrouvaille (pronounced retro-vi with a long i). Our next weekend is 29-31 January 2021. All calls and inquiries are confidential. To register or obtain more information visit our website at: www.HelpOurMarriage.org, call (443) 400-7017, or email: 3015@HelpOurMarriage.org

SAINT PETER'S SCHOOL OPENINGS

Saint Peter's School, a 2019 National Blue Ribbon School of Excellence, has openings in Pre K- 7th grade, for the 2021-2022 school year. Our mission is to help each child grow – spiritually, socially, emotionally, physically, and intellectually. Learn more about Saint Peter's School during one of weekly virtual information sessions, offered each Wednesday, at 10AM. Space is limited; register through the website, www.stpetersschoololney.org.

Spotlight on St. Jude Regional Catholic School

We are...St. Jude

www.StJudeRockville.org

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK (CSW):

Faith, Excellence, Service

CSW is an annual celebration of Catholic education in the United States. SJRCS will observe CSW week on a limited basis. Through these events, we focus on the value Catholic education provides to young people and its contributions to Church, local communities and the nation.

Catholic Schools Week Schedule

- January 29 10:00 am – Opening School Mass (live streamed)
- February 1 8:00 am - Drive through coffee for our parents
- February 2 Service Day – We will be collecting baby items for the St. Ann's Center and men and women's socks for the Homeless Shelters of Rockville. The students will also be writing letters to the residents of local Catholic Nursing homes.
- February 3 Virtual Open House (More information to follow)
- February 4 Student Appreciation Day (More information to follow)
- February 5 10:00 am - Closing Mass with an international flair (live streamed)/12:00 dismissal-Teacher Appreciation Day

ENROLL NOW!

Applications for enrollment for the 2021 school year are being accepted. Do not delay as we already have waiting lists in many classes. Visit www.stjuderockville.org. Go to Admission, then Apply Online, then Enrollment: [TADS: Online Registration and Enrollment](#). We would love to share information about our school with you. Please call Ellen Donnelly at 301-946-7888 to get more information or visit our website at [Visit www.stjuderockville.org](http://www.stjuderockville.org). You can also follow us on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.

KOC 2323 SPECIAL OLYMPICS POLAR PLUNGE

For the past 25 years, the Annual Polar Plunge has been the kick-off for the year in helping to support our Special Olympics athletes and provide inclusive experiences. This event generally brings athletes and plungers from all over the state to participate in one of the largest fundraisers of the year. Due to current conditions, the plunge is going to be virtual, and the Knights need your help to continue to make this event possible. We'll perform the icy plunges, but we need your assistance in donating to the cause. Our team website for donations, and where we'll post our plunges is: <https://support.somd.org/Kofc2323Team> Members of the plunge will also have individual sites you can view from there. Donations are being accepted through January 31st, so please help us to reach our goal and make this 25th Anniversary Plunge a great one!! If you have any questions, please feel free to visit our council website at www.kofc2323.org where you can contact one of our Team Members.

TEAMS OF OUR LADY

Teams of Our Lady is a movement of Christian Marriage Spirituality that brings together couples united by the Sacrament of Matrimony and who wish, together, to deepen the graces of their Sacrament. It offers married couples a pathway toward love, happiness, and holiness. The movement's aim is to help couples live fully their Sacrament of Marriage. Interested in learning more, contact Fr. John at 301-840-1407 or email him at jdillon@sfdw.org.