

ST FRANCIS OF ASSISI, DERWOOD

Mass Intentions

November 15 - November 21

Monday, 11/15	9:00 a.m.	Gemma Palini
Tuesday, 11/16	9:00 a.m.	Erlinda Quemuel
Wednesday, 11/17	9:00 a.m.	Donald Zeggio
	7:30 p.m.	Jessica Polissedjian
Thursday, 11/18	9:00 a.m.	Kelly Baxter
Friday, 11/19	9:00 a.m.	Andres Baldwin
Saturday, 11/20	5:00 p.m.	Richard & Pat Hunt
Sunday, 11/21	8:00 a.m.	Carl Rubbo, Sr.
	9:30 a.m.	Paul Lang
	11:15 a.m.	Guy Beaven
	5:00 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.

+ In Memoriam Aeternam +

In your charity, please pray for the repose of the soul of Irene Scaramazza, sister of Fr. Francis Russo.

Please pray for the sick... Debra Price, Barbara Schmidt, Mary Cutting, Angelica Santos, Jackie Komlo, Allison Brauer, 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 November 14, 2021

Sunday:	Dn 12:1-3/Ps 16:5, 8, 9-10, 11 [1]/Heb 10:11-14, 18/Mk 13:24-32
Monday:	1 Mc 1:10-15, 41-43, 54-57, 62-63/Ps 119:53, 61, 134, 150, 155, 158 [cf. 88]/Lk 18:35-43
Tuesday:	2 Mc 6:18-31/Ps 3:2-3, 4-5, 6-7 [6b]/Lk 19:1-10
Wednesday:	2 Mc 7:1, 20-31/Ps 17:1bcd, 5-6, 8b and 15 [15b]/Lk 19:11-28
Thursday:	1 Mc 2:15-29/Ps 50:1b-2, 5-6, 14-15 [23b]/Lk 19:41-44
Friday:	1 Mc 4:36-37, 52-59/1 Chron 29:10bcd, 11abc, 11d-12a, 12bcd [13b]/Lk 19:45-48
Saturday:	1 Mc 6:1-13/Ps 9:2-3, 4 and 6, 16 and 19 [cf. 16a]/Lk 20:27-40
Next Sunday:	Dn 7:13-14/Ps 93:1, 1-2, 5 [1a]/Rv 1:5-8/Jn 18:33b-37

THE MUSINGS OF THE PASTOR

November is National Black Catholic History Month. One way that I thought we could observe that was to look at the six African American people whose cause for canonization is advancing. We'll look at three individuals on the road to sainthood this week. We'll look at the other three next week. I am going to base my remarks on the reflections of each of the six that have been provided by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops. Before I present the first three candidates for possible canonization, let me give a quick explanation of terms. Servant of God is the title of a person who died "in the odor of sanctity" and into whose life and virtues the Church has instituted an inquiry for the purpose of having the person declared Blessed, which will bring with it the right to receive liturgical celebrations. Venerable is the title of a Servant of God whose cause or beatification has been introduced and whose heroic virtue or martyrdom has been officially established. However, those who have been declared Venerable cannot yet receive public liturgical veneration. We will look now at the six candidates in chronological order: three this week and three next week.

Venerable Pierre Toussaint (1776-1853)

Venerable Pierre Toussaint, a philanthropist and founder of many Catholic charitable works, was born a slave in Haiti and brought from Haiti to New York as an apprentice 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 quickly succeeded 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 others out on the streets in their home. He founded one of New York's first orphanages and raised money for the city's first cathedral. During yellow fever epidemics, Toussaint would risk his life to help others by nursing the sick and praying with the dying. *"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."*

Servant of God Mother Mary Elizabeth Lange (1784-1882)

Servant of God Mother Mary Lange was born Elizabeth Lange, a native of the Caribbean, and believed to be Cuban born of Haitian descent. She was the foundress and first Superior General of the Oblate Sisters of Providence (1829-1832), the first religious congregation of African American women in the history of the Catholic Church. On July 2, 1829, Elizabeth and three other women professed their vows and became the Oblate Sisters of Providence with the goal of educating and evangelizing African Americans. They educated youth and provided a home for orphans. Freed slaves were educated and at times admitted into the congregation. They nursed the terminally ill during the cholera epidemic of 1832, sheltered the elderly, and served as domestics at St. Mary's Seminary.

Continued in the column to the right....

November 14, 2021

QUESTION OF THE WEEK

How can I remain vigilant in looking for Jesus over this coming week?



INDIVIDUALS, COUPLES AND FAMILIES ARE INVITED TO LIGHT THE ADVENT WREATH IN CHURCH

Are you and your family interested in lighting the Advent wreath in church this Advent season? Individuals, couples, and families are invited to sign up to light the Advent wreath at Mass this Advent season, which begins Saturday, November 27. Please sign up on Flocknote at <https://sfaderwood.flocknote.com/signup/73235>. For more information, contact Ministry Coordinator Sue Madison at musikal76@msn.com or call her at (301) 977-6854.

THE MUSINGS OF THE PASTOR continued

Servant of God Mother Mary Elizabeth Lange (continued)
Mother Mary Lange practiced faith to an extraordinary degree. It was her deep faith – in close union with Jesus – which enabled her to persevere against all odds. She lived through disappointment and opposition until God called her home in 1882 at the St. Frances Convent in Baltimore, Maryland.

Venerable Henriette Delille (1813-1862)

Venerable Henriette Delille was born in New Orleans, Louisiana, where she would live her entire life. For the love of Jesus and responding to the Gospel's mandate, she was determined to help those in need. Henriette was also a person who suffered as she made her way through life, and she bore many crosses. She taught those around her 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. 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 both the Church and civil authority; and poor health.

However, Henriette practiced heroic virtue. She had faith, lived in hope, and practiced 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 20 years later on November 17, 1862. Her funeral was held at St. Augustine Church. Her obituary stated, "... 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."

For more information on these saintly Americans, check out the following link to the USCCB website: [On the Road to Sainthood: Leaders of African Descent | USCCB](#).

Until next week,

Fr. John

SPIRIT TREE

We will be collecting gift cards to send down to Assumption Parish again this year. There will be no gifts collected. Please watch for the Spirit Tree the weekend of November 20/21 for gift card requests.

RETIRED PRIESTS COLLECTION 2021

The Retired Priests of the Archdiocese of Washington Collection is November 13 & 14 this year. Our priests touch our lives in many ways: they baptize our children, comfort us in the confessional, witness our marriage vows and hold our loved ones hands as the Lord calls them home. Let us come together to help provide care and housing for our retired priests so they can live their retirement in dignity. There are three ways you can support the Retired Priests Collection this year:

1. Envelope. Please use the envelope mailed to you earlier this month, the envelope in the pew pockets, or the second collection envelope provided by the parish.
2. Online: Please visit adw.org/rpc to support the collection online.
3. Text: Please text "Priest" to 301-231-1816. A text with a link to a secure form will be sent back to you to complete

VOLUNTEERS ARE STILL NEEDED TO HELP AT THE CHRISTMAS TREE SALE STARTING NOVEMBER 27

With less than two weeks before our parish Christmas Tree Sale opens, we still need volunteers to help set up the tree lot Saturday, November 20; offload and stake trees on Friday, November 26; and sell trees from November 27-December 5. The sales shifts are weekends from 9 am-12 pm; 12-3 pm; 3-6 pm; and 6 pm to close. Weekday sales shifts are from 3-6 pm and 6 pm to close. Come join us for this annual fundraiser, which raises money for our parish community and brings together our parishioners as we celebrate the beginning of the Advent season. Sign up to volunteer at the Christmas Tree Sale at <https://sfaderwood.flocknote.com/signup/71961>. For more information about the Christmas Tree Sale, please contact Ministry Coordinator Brian Pettit at brian-pettit@pettitcompanies.com or call or text him at (240) 372-1662.

MISSION COOPERATIVE APPEAL

Thank you for your donation on behalf of the missionaries from around the world. Due to the pandemic, we cannot welcome the missionaries to our parish to tell their stories about the marginalized communities they serve worldwide. Your generosity allows them to bring a message of hope and solidarity to these communities. **Thank you!**



**GROUP B ELEMENTARY CLASSES
MEET NOVEMBER 14**

**MIDDLE SCHOOL CLASSES
MEET NOVEMBER 15 & 16**

FIRST RECONCILIATION PARENT MEETINGS

A reminder to families of children preparing to celebrate First Reconciliation this year: the next First Reconciliation Parent Meetings will be held on Wednesday, November 17 or Thursday, November 18 from 7:30-9:00 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.

CHRISTMAS STOCKING HELP LINE

Religious Education families are invited to support families served by Catholic Charities here in Montgomery County by donating \$35 gift cards for local departments stores (e.g., Target) through our "RE Christmas Stocking Help Line." Families may choose to take one (or more) stockings, purchase a gift card, and return these to RE classes by December 14. Look for a letter with more information about this project given to students in RE classes.

**PARENT MEETING FOR HOMESCHOOL
OPTION RE**

Our Online Parent Meeting: Advent/Unit 2 Overview for families sharing in this year's homeschool religious education program will be from 1-2 pm on Sunday, November 21. Families registered for the Homeschool option will receive an email with link to join.

**ORDER ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI
MERCHANDISE AS CHRISTMAS
OR SPECIAL GIFTS**

Are you beginning to shop for Christmas gifts for your loved ones? If so, then check out the branded St. Francis of Assisi merchandise produced as a part of our parish's 50th anniversary celebration. The Parish Office is selling adult and youth-sized T-shirts, polo shirts, beanie hats, ball caps, keychains, and even a Sherpa throw blanket. We also have face masks in youth and adult sizes. Please download the order form at <https://www.sfadw.org/50th-anniversary-merchandise>, print and fill it out, and bring either cash or check as payment to the Parish Office during business hours. To receive promotional items for Christmas, please submit your order forms by November 30. For more information, contact the Parish Office at (301) 840-1407.

Spotlight on St. Jude Regional Catholic School

We are...St. Jude

www.StJudeRockville.org

<http://www.facebook.com/stjuderockvillemd>

Instagram: [stjuderockville](https://www.instagram.com/stjuderockville)

Twitter: [@StJudeRCS](https://twitter.com/StJudeRCS)

**St. Jude Regional Catholic School
IS PROUD TO BE PARTNERING WITH
#GIVECATHOLIC.**

**Help us raise
\$10,000
by November 22ND**

Monies will go towards student scholarships, teacher supplies, books, technology resources, religion retreats for teachers, and improvements to our campus. You can donate at <https://washington.igivecatholic.org/organizations/st-jude-regional-catholic-school>

**COME CHEER ON OUR GIRLS ON THE RUN AS
THEY RUN A 5K**

SUNDAY NOVEMBER 21, 2021

OPENING CEREMONIES 8:00AM

5K WILL START AT 8:45AM

Westfield Montgomery Mall (Old Sears Parking lot)
7101 Democracy Blvd, Bethesda, MD 20817

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.

HYMNAL FUNDRAISING CAMPAIGN

It is indeed wonderful that we, as a parish community, may lift our voices in song at Mass once again! Fr. John and Janet Pate, our Director of Music are also happy to announce that new Ritual Song-Second Edition hymnals will be in the pews soon. The decision to acquire new hymnals was made for two important reasons. Our current hymnals do not include the language of the revised translation of the Roman Missal, and some of our current hymnals are in rather poor condition. We would greatly appreciate any financial contributions towards the new hymnals. You can help defray the cost by sponsoring the purchase of one or more hymnals with a small donation. Take this opportunity to celebrate the memory of a loved one, commemorate an important event, or simply honor your family name. A memorial label will be placed on the inside front cover of the hymnal. We ask a donation of \$20 per hymnal. For more information or to get a donation form, call the Parish Office at 301-840-1407.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS 2323 MEMORIAL MASS

All Members of Montgomery Council 2323, including spouses, widows, and guests are invited to the Annual Memorial Mass which will be held at Father Cuddy Hall on Tuesday, November 16, 2021 beginning at 8pm. The hall is located at 17001 Overhill Rd in Derwood, MD 20855. Following the Mass a reception is planned. If you are able to join us, please RSVP to Steven Willer at either saw.kofc.fs2323@gmail.com or (202) 809-6784 (mobile).

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).

ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI PRAYER CHAIN If you have a prayer request, please contact Marianne Bullen, mariannebu@comcast.net with your requests.

PRAYERS FOR OUR SERVICE MEN/WOMEN

Please continue to pray for all those parishioners, family members and friends who are serving in the military services. We have a prayer list posted in the Gathering Space for those who are serving in these areas. Please help us to keep it current by letting us know of any parishioner who is currently deployed so we can add them, and also those who have returned so that we can remove their names. Please continue to keep all of our military personnel in your prayers.

WRAP-UP OF ADVENT-RELATED EVENTS

Several Advent-related events and activities will kick off in coming weeks at our parish. Please be on the lookout for:

- November 20/21: Spirit Tree is up. We are asking for gift cards for Assumption Parish.
- November 26: Christmas wreath decoration for fresh wreaths sold at the Christmas Tree Sale.
- November 27: Kickoff of the Christmas Tree Sale in front of the church. Sign up to volunteer at <https://sfaderwood.flocknote.com/signup/71961>.
- November 27: Advent wreath lighting in the church begins. Sign up at <https://sfaderwood.flocknote.com/signup/73235>.
- December 4 and 5: Olivewood sales in the Gathering Space.
- December 4 and 5 and 11 and 12: Alternative Christmas gift program.
- December 11 and 12 and 18 and 19: Sale of right-to-life Christmas cards.

For more information, contact the Parish Office at (301) 840-1407.

CRAFTERS NEEDED TO DECORATE CHRISTMAS WREATHS ON NOVEMBER 26



Parishioners are invited to come to the Parish Center from 6:30-9 pm Friday, November 26, to help decorate more than 70 wreaths. The parish will supply all the decorations and floral wire, but participants should bring their own wire cutters and glue guns. Volunteers will be socially distanced, working safely in the Parish Center. All volunteers are strongly encouraged to wear face masks or facial coverings. Any children over 12 who attend must be accompanied by an adult.

Christmas music will be played and the wonderful smell of fresh wreaths are sure to stir up the spirit of the season. For more information, contact Ministry Coordinator Carolyn Brauer at carolyn_brauer@yahoo.com or call Sylvia Jones at 240-755-2247.

VOLUNTEER DRIVERS NEEDED: GAITHERSBURG MEALS ON WHEELS

Gaithersburg Meals on Wheels has a continuing need for drivers to deliver hot and cold meals at lunchtime to the elderly and shut-ins in the Gaithersburg area. Meals are prepared at Asbury Methodist Village, 333 Russell Ave., and picked up by drivers between 10:30 and 11:15 a.m. Monday-Friday. Containers are provided for carrying the meals, and delivery takes about one hour, with eight to 12 clients on each route. Volunteers are asked to drive either once a week, or once every other week. Children are welcome to accompany parents. Training is provided. Please call 301-216-4200, or Lisa Koenig at 301-869-0190 or lisamkoenig1@gmail.com.

GABRIEL PROJECT

The Gabriel Project Cluster of Montgomery County serves mothers and their families in crisis pregnancies. With so many families depending on resources for support, we count on the generosity of our donors for their prayers and donations of material items, which sustain needy families throughout the year. **This Christmas, we need your support more than ever!** We will provide gifts and essential items to the families we serve. Please join us in our efforts by choosing from any number of gift options from our Amazon wishlist. Please visit our website, www.gpmoco.org, and click on our Amazon wishlist. We thank you in advance for helping to make this Christmas bright for over 200 current families. If you have any questions, please contact Natalie Ray at natalieanneray@gmail.com.

JUSTICE THOUGHT 11
RACISM AND CAPITAL PUNISHMENT

U.S. facts¹

- Death penalty abolished - 23 states (including Maryland)
- Moratorium on death penalty – three states
- Active use of death penalty as form of punishment - 24 states

Statistics²

- 2020 – The United States resumes federal executions after a 17-year hiatus. More federal executions were conducted under President Donald Trump than any time since the 19th century.
- July 2021 - President Joe Biden imposed a moratorium on federal executions - promises he will work to ban them.²

In a study released by the Death Penalty Information Organization in 2020³, more than 75 percent of all death row inmates sentenced to executions were for killing a white person, even though 50 percent of homicides involve the death of a black person. Also note that the data for imposing the death penalty for interracial homicides is skewed unfavorably toward black defendants. From 1976 through September 2020, 21 white defendants were sentenced to death for killing a black person, while 296 black defendants were sentenced to death for killing a white person.

As of April 2021, the U.S. death row population was 2,504; the breakdown by race was as follows:

- White – 42 percent
- Black - 41 percent
- Latin – 14 percent
- Other – 3 percent

September 24, 2020 - Catholic Mobilization Network holds a prayer vigil for Christopher Vialva who is to be executed. Mr. Vialva, a black man, was charged with the murder of two white people when he was 19. Cardinal Wilton Gregory releases the following statement at the prayer vigil:⁴

“In the United States today, the race of both the perpetrator and victim continue to play a role in how crimes are tried in our criminal justice system. Crimes committed by people of color, especially crimes against white women, are more likely to become capital cases. Statistically, Black Americans represent 13 percent of the total population, but make up 42 percent of inmates on death row. Racial bias, like in Mr. Vialva’s case, leads to a serious judgment placed on someone’s life and personal value. In cases involving the death penalty, the solution is a permanent one. The death penalty ends a life. The impact of prejudice or bias, and the possibility of wrongful conviction, should be reason enough to end the use of capital punishment.”

Continued in the column to the right....

**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 our Home Page, Give, Give Now and start shopping!

JUSTICE THOUGHT 11

RACISM AND CAPITAL PUNISHMENT (continued)

“In the United States today, the race of both the perpetrator and victim continue to play a role in how crimes are tried in our criminal justice system. Crimes committed by people of color, especially crimes against white women, are more likely to become capital cases. Statistically, Black Americans represent 13 percent of the total population, but make up 42 percent of inmates on death row. Racial bias, like in Mr. Vialva’s case, leads to a serious judgment placed on someone’s life and personal value. In cases involving the death penalty, the solution is a permanent one. The death penalty ends a life. The impact of prejudice or bias, and the possibility of wrongful conviction, should be reason enough to end the use of capital punishment.”

Catholic teaching has consistently opposed the use of capital punishment in the United States (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 2267), and our culture has increasingly grown to support these teachings as more states have repealed the death penalty on a bipartisan basis. The reinstated federal death penalty stands in direct contrast to the views of Catholics and the American people. As Christians, we have been taught to celebrate God’s creation. The unborn child, the sick, persons with special needs, the immigrant, and the convicted prisoner on death row are all equally deserving of God’s love. The myth of human innocence in a world of sin tries to pretend that some of these lives are more valuable than others. However, the reality of God’s love and mercy reminds us that we cannot weigh one life against another. We are called to a radical witness and practice of mercy. This witness of mercy is a non-negotiable part of our faith because Christ commands us to be merciful.”

References

1. ProCon.org, 3/24/2021, <https://deathpenalty.procon.org/states-with-the-death-penalty-and-states-with-death-penalty-bans/>
2. Reuters News Release, <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-usa-executions-idUSKBN29L06J> (Federal Executions)
3. Race and the Death Penalty, Death Penalty Information Organization, University of North Carolina, <https://deathpenaltyinfo.org/policy-issues/race/race-and-the-death-penalty-by-the-numbers>
4. *Catholic Standard*, September 2020, <https://cathstan.org/news/us-world/statement-from-archbishop-gregory-for-virtual-prayer-vigil-against-federal-executions>