

## ST FRANCIS OF ASSISI, DERWOOD

# Mass Intentions

**January 24 - January 30, 2022**

<b>Monday, 1/24</b>	9:00 a.m.	Bernard & Nazaretta Swandic
<b>Tuesday, 1/25</b>	9:00 a.m.	Msgr. Paul Langsfeld
<b>Wednesday, 1/26</b>	9:00 a.m.	Theresa Burke
	7:30 p.m.	Anthony Costa
<b>Thursday, 1/27</b>	9:00 a.m.	Fritz Mitchell
<b>Friday, 1/28</b>	9:00 a.m.	John Estampador
<b>Saturday, 1/29</b>	5:00 p.m.	<i>Pro populo</i>
	8:00 a.m.	Bill Didier
<b>Sunday, 1/30</b>	9:30 a.m.	Amelia Dudenhoeffer
	11:15 a.m.	Zenaida Nabor
	5:00 p.m.	Larry Swandic

### + In Memoriam Aeternam +

In your charity, please pray for the repose of the soul of Fr. Francis X. Russo, OFM Capuchin, Jackie Komlo, wife of William Komlo.

**Please pray for the sick...** Fred Kolberg, Lorri, Kyle & Madelyn Anessi, Karen Mason, David Falzarano, Fr. Francis Russo, Debra Price, Barbara Schmidt, Mary Cutting, Angelica Santos, 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 January 23, 2022

<b>Sunday:</b>	Neh 8:2-4a, 5-6, 8-10/Ps 19:8, 9, 10, 15/ 1 Cor 12:12-30 or 12:12-14, 27/Lk 1:1-4; 4:14-21
<b>Monday:</b>	2 Sm 5:1-7, 10/Ps 89:20, 21-22, 25-26/ Mk 3:22-30
<b>Tuesday:</b>	Acts 22:3-16 or Acts 9:1-22/Ps 117: 1bc, 2/ Mk 16:15-18
<b>Wednesday:</b>	2 Tm 1:1-8 or Ti 1:1-5/Ps 89:4-5, 27-28, 29-30/ Mk 4:1-20
<b>Thursday:</b>	2 Sm 7:18-19, 24-29/Ps 132:1-2, 3-5, 11, 12, 13-14/Mk 4:21-25
<b>Friday:</b>	2 Sm 11:1-4a, 5-10a, 13-17/Ps 51:3-4, 5-6a, 6bcd-7, 10-11/Mk 4:26-34
<b>Saturday:</b>	2 Sm 12:1-7a, 10-17/Ps 51:12-13, 14-15, 16-17/ Mk 4:35-41
<b>Next Sunday:</b>	Jer 1:4-5, 17-19/Ps 71:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 15-17 [cf. 15ab]/1 Cor 12:31—13:13 or 13:4-13/ Lk 4:21-30

### THE MUSINGS OF THE PASTOR

Jesuit Brother Guy Consolmagno, Director of the Vatican Observatory, is someone whom I have followed now for a number of years. Smart and witty, he has written a number of articles and given a number of addresses that I have consistently found helpful. Recently I saw that Carol Glatz wrote in Catholic News Service about an article he had published in the Italian Jesuit Journal *La Civiltà Cattolica*. In that article Brother Guy stating that those who were stubbornly skeptical of science and those who eagerly embrace science as infallible both have a dangerous misunderstanding of the nature of science. This is the temptation to turn science or faith into a fortress against the basic and human fear of uncertainty.

“We trust the (COVID-19) vaccine not because it is perfect, but because it greatly increases the probability of not getting sick. The real and obvious problem lies in the fact that most of us cannot understand how probability works: that is why casinos and lotteries are so successful,” wrote Brother Consolmagno in the article published on January 15, 2022 in *La Civiltà Cattolica*.

Brother Consolmagno stated there that anti-vax proponents and conspiracy theorists have a mistaken idea of what science is and what it can promise. At the same time those who hold up science as being infallible fuel skepticism about science. As a planetary scientist, Brother Consolmagno wrote that it is important the people understand the true purpose of science and how important necessary doubt is for achieving progress and acquiring greater understanding.

As an example of this he points to a popular slogan in the fight against the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic is “Trust the science.”

He comments that this slogan should be understood as saying that science is a reliable and trustworthy path toward the truth. Unfortunately, for some the saying suggests that science is “the only” trustworthy guide.

Brother Consolmagno goes on to say that “The opposition between faith in science and faith in religion has implications beyond the mistrust of vaccines. It is evidence of a fallacious view of what science is and what it can promise.”

“This misunderstanding is widespread not only among those who are skeptical of science, but also, and perhaps more dangerously, among those who embrace (science) too hastily” because when science does not live up to any kind of “exaggerated reliability, this failure only fuels skepticism” about science in general, he said.

Even though people may not want to admit it, there is a grain of truth, he noted, in a fear of granting unconditional trust in science because science sometimes makes mistakes.

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

**January 23, 2022**

### **QUESTION OF THE WEEK**

*In what ways am I poor, oppressed, or held captive? How does the Lord's promise speak to me? How can I bring glad tidings to those who are poor and oppressed?*

### **THE MUSINGS OF THE PASTOR (continued)**

Referring once again to the COVID-19 vaccines Brother Consolmagno remarked that they prevent disease in the overwhelming majority of those who are vaccinated and reduce the severity of the disease. On the other hand, vaccines are not perfect. People can still get sick, although it is rare that they become seriously ill.

Brother Consolmagno noted that science is based on doubt and error. With science failure is not an option. It is a requirement and knowing that one knows nothing is what drives deeper study and progress. He believes that science is always incomplete by its very nature. It is always growing as new knowledge and experience accumulate. While it might be all right to read an old book on philosophy or theology, you would never study your grandfather's biology textbook.

As a scientist Brother Consolmagno recognizes that science does not give the perfect truth but experiments and theories can be constantly refined. This provides people with increasingly precise descriptions of nature. He believes that doing science depends on loving even the boring parts of doing meticulous study. It is believing even when our trust in our scientific progress wavers. It is being willing to forgive and learn from those who made mistakes in the past. Loving means living with uncertainty and learning to trust.

Brother Consolmagno believes that living with the uncertainty of disease, the fallibility of science, and the fear of losing one's personal autonomy requires us to trust in the work of others which, like love, should be with caution and audacity. He concludes his article by recommending that we should be reasonably cautious, and we should not jump in blindly. We should, nevertheless, believe in knowledge, which is both beautiful and fallible. Despite the imperfection of science, it still leads to an increased likelihood of living a healthy life. "We are happy that God has given us the ability to understand and appreciate his creation through our science."

Here is the link for the entire article by Carol Glatz: <https://www.catholicnews.com/trust-the-science-but-do-not-idolize-it-says-vatican-astronomer/>.

Until next week,  
**Fr. John**

### **SIGN-UP FOR THE PARISH LISTENING SESSIONS**

Our virtual parish listening sessions for the archdiocesan synod are underway, with the inaugural session having taken place on Saturday, January 15. Please join us for the second and third listening sessions, which will take place on the following dates:

- **Saturday, January 29:** Second Listening Session from 10-11:30 am on Zoom. Small Group topics: *Listening, Speaking Out, and Sharing Responsibility for Our Common Mission and Sharing Authority and Participation.*
- **Saturday, February 5:** Third Listening Session from 10-11:30 am on Zoom. Small Group topics: *Discerning and Deciding, Celebration, and Holy Spirit.*

Please sign up for a parish listening session at <https://sfaderwood.flocknote.com/signup/77992> or fill out an individual archdiocesan survey at <https://adw.org/2021-2023-synod-survey-for-individuals/>. For more information about the synod, see <https://adw.org/about-us/resources/synod/>.

### **ARE YOU INTERESTED IN A SMALL GROUP THIS LENT?**

This Lent, we hope to embrace Pope Francis' suggestion that Catholics read Dante's *The Divine Comedy* during the 700<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Dante's death. We will do this in small groups. If you've never read *The Divine Comedy*, this would be good to read it with the support of a small group.

*The Divine Comedy* is a poem, usually published as three separate books: *Inferno, Purgatorio, and Paradiso*. The story of *The Divine Comedy* is Dante's imaginative journey through Hell, Purgatory, and Heaven. It is a classic of world literature and a Catholic classic as well. It is a good book to accompany us on our own spiritual pilgrimage.

If you are interested in taking part in a small group reading Dante's books, please contact St. Francis Director of Adult Faith Formation and Social Concerns Tony Bosnick at [abosnick@sfadw.org](mailto:abosnick@sfadw.org).

### **2022 VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION DINNER DANCE CANCELLED**

Unfortunately we will not be having this wonderful event due to the increase in COVID cases. We are hopeful come 2023 we will all be gathering to enjoy a meal together and dance the night away.



## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROGRAM NEWS

### SUNDAY GROUP B ELEMENTARY CLASSES MEET NEXT ON JANUARY 23

### MONDAY & TUESDAY MIDDLE SCHOOL CLASSES MEET JANUARY 24 & 25

### CATECHESIS FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

Our parish offers catechetical sessions specifically designed for children and youth with special needs and their families. Our class meets online next Sunday, January 30 from 3:30-4:30 pm. If you would like to learn more about these sessions, please call Susan Anderson, Director of Religious Education, at 301-258-9193.

### SNOW/EMERGENCY CANCELLATION POLICY

If Montgomery County Public Schools are closed, and if schools are dismissed early, Religious Education classes 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 posted:

- On the parish website: [www.sfadw.org](http://www.sfadw.org)
- On the St. Francis Parish Facebook page: "St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church"
- On the Religious Education Office phone voicemail: 301-258-9193.

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

### COMMUNITY OUTREACH COORDINATOR

Shady Grove Pregnancy Center is hiring. Want to make a difference? Join the staff of the Shady Grove Pregnancy Center as Community Outreach Coordinator. Support the life-saving mission of SGPC in saving lives, helping women in need and supporting families. This flexible FT/PT position works in social media, digital marketing and advertising, writing and communications, fundraising projects, planning outreach activities that advance the SGPC name and services in the community. For a full job description email [execdirector@pregnancy-options.org](mailto:execdirector@pregnancy-options.org).

### Spotlight on St. Jude Regional Catholic School

We are...St. Jude

[www.StJudeRockville.org](http://www.StJudeRockville.org)

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

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

### ST. JUDE REGIONAL CATHOLIC SCHOOL ENROLLMENT IS OPEN FOR THE 2022-2023 SCHOOL YEAR

Applications will be taken on a first come first serve basis. Please register by following the links on our school website at [www.stjuderockville.org](http://www.stjuderockville.org). Go to Admission, Apply Now, Enrollment: [TADS: Online Registration and Enrollment](#).

### SJRCS OPEN HOUSE

We would love to share the story of our school with you. Attend St. Jude Regional Catholic School Open House to see our wonderful teachers in action and experience our welcoming community first-hand.

Join us for our Open House on:

Wednesday, February 2, 2022

9:00-11:30 AM

6:00-8:00 PM

### SJRCS NEW GALA DATE IS MARCH 12, 2022

It will be a fun evening of music, food, and friends! We will have a live band, and two huge tents outside the Thaddeus room doors with sides, floor, lights, and heat. Monies raised will build storage cabinets for PreK-4<sup>th</sup> grades, and upgrades for the faculty room and the faculty bathroom.

### OPEN HOUSE - MOTHER OF GOD SCHOOL

Mother of God Catholic School is having their annual **Open House** on **Sunday, January 30 from 11:00 - 2:00**. Offering the largest Catholic PreK in the area, a rigorous K-8 curriculum, and strong Catholic identity on a beautiful 18-acre campus. **Mother of God School: 20501 Goshen Road, Gaithersburg.** For more information, or to schedule a tour, contact Dominique Seraphin at 301.990.2089 ext. 11 or [admissions@mogschool.com](mailto:admissions@mogschool.com). *Come and see what a Catholic School Education can do for your child!*

### THE JUSTICE THOUGHT

"Let us all hope that the dark clouds of racial prejudice will soon pass away and the deep fog of misunderstanding will be lifted from our fear-drenched communities and in some not too distant tomorrow the radiant stars of love and brotherhood will shine over our great nation with all their scintillating beauty."

Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.,

"Letter from Birmingham Jail," 1963.

**Thoughts for reflection:** Are we seeing signs of love and brotherhood in our country today? How does this quote resonate with you personally in 2022? And in the country?

"We must invite into dialogue those we ordinarily would not seek out. Only by forging authentic relationships can we truly see each other as Christ sees us. **Open Wide Our Hearts: the Enduring Call to Love.** United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, 2018.

## DRIVE-THROUGH SPAGHETTI DINNER



Spaghetti and meatballs! On Sunday, February 6<sup>th</sup>, Montgomery Council 2323 of the Knights of Columbus will host a drive-through spaghetti dinner to benefit St. Francis of Assisi's Medical Mission to Haiti. The dinner includes spaghetti with sauce and meatballs; garden salad, and garlic bread; *or* buttered spaghetti, with garden salad and garlic bread. Pickup times for the dinner will be in 15-minute slots from 1:00 to 6:00 pm at the Knights of Columbus' Father Cuddy Hall, 17001 Overhill Road, Derwood. The cost is \$10.00 per meal. There are a limited number of time slots, **so reservations for pickup are requested.** Contact Mike Thomas at [cinnabar-mike@verizon.net](mailto:cinnabar-mike@verizon.net) or (301) 330-5970. We will also have a 50/50 raffle, and you do not have to be present to win.

### 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](http://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](mailto:gtdbpalmer@verizon.net)).

### 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.

### JOIN BOOK DISCUSSION ON "THE SPIRITUAL WORK OF RACIAL JUSTICE"

Are you interested in learning about and discussing racism through the lens of our Catholic faith? If so, then join parishioner Mary Jordan, a member of the Ad-Hoc Committee on Racism, who will host a book discussion on "The Spiritual Work of Racial Justice: A Month of Mediations with Ignatius of Loyola" by Patrick Saint-Jean, S.J. The first book discussion will take place online at 7:15 pm February 2, 2022. If you would like to participate in this discussion, please contact Mary at [marywjordan17@gmail.com](mailto:marywjordan17@gmail.com). Order the book at <https://www.amazon.com/Spiritual-Work-Racial-Justice-Meditations/dp/1625248369>.

## REGULAR VOLUNTEERS SOUGHT AT THE LORD'S TABLE SOUP KITCHEN

The Lord's Table Soup Kitchen at Epworth United Methodist Church in Gaithersburg is seeking teams of five to six people to cook and serve meals for those who visit the soup kitchen for a hot meal. St. Francis parishioners are especially sought to make a regular monthly commitment, serving from 1-5 pm on the third Thursday of every month or any portion of the afternoon. People serve in cooking and serving roles.

Both adults and older teens are invited to engage in this service work, but all participants must be vaccinated. Those best suited for this volunteer work are energetic, friendly, willing to engage with people from all walks of life and can lift trays and some cookware. It is a great service opportunity for teams of families or a ministry looking for service work. For more information, contact Director of Social Concerns and Adult Faith Formation Tony Bosnick at [abosnick@sfadw.org](mailto:abosnick@sfadw.org).

### JOIN THE CATHOLIC ADVOCACY NETWORK TO GET ACTION ALERTS ON STATE BILLS

With the start of the Maryland General Assembly on January 12, state legislators are expected to consider more than 2,000 bills this session, with hundreds already pre-filed. Proposed laws are wide-ranging and include a proposal to remove conscience protections for faith-based hospitals; reforms of the youth justice system; proposals to address food insecurity, housing and transportation access for lower income residents; suicide prevention efforts; right to counsel for immigration hearings; funding for BOOST scholarships and school nurses; environmental protection; and a number of bills related to life issues, from the start of life to the end.

The Maryland Catholic Conference will read every bill, submit testimony on nearly 200 of them, and work with lawmakers to advocate for the Catholic Church, schools and ministries and affected people.

To receive e-mail updates, action alerts and other resources, sign up for the Catholic Advocacy Network by logging on to [mdcatholic.org/joincan](http://mdcatholic.org/joincan). Thank you!

### ONLINE GIVING - FAITH DIRECT

Even as the pandemic continues to bring uncertainty, the new year is filled with hope and promise – we always seek to grow our vital ministries, explore new ways to share the good news of Christ's love, and reflect His care and mercy to those in need throughout the community. To continue to make a difference in 2022, St. Francis of Assisi is reaching out to our parishioners. Begin the new year with eGiving to help sustain and build ministries throughout 2022 that reflect the steadfast promise of God's love. The need is great in our community, and your generous online gifts will help people all around us. We prayerfully request that you consider signing up for eGiving from your computer, smartphone or tablet. You can set up a recurring donation or make a one-time gift. Sign up today by visiting [faith.direct/MD110](http://faith.direct/MD110). Thank you for your continued support of our parish family.

God Bless You,  
Fr. John

## 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. For additional information or to learn more about domestic violence, please visit [www.catholiccharitiesdc.org/familypeace](http://www.catholiccharitiesdc.org/familypeace).

## GABRIEL PROJECT

The Gabriel Project Cluster of Montgomery County serves mothers and their families in crisis pregnancies. We are so thankful for the support we received during our recent Christmas Appeal. January is March for Life month. Please help us support our client families. **Our client moms have said yes to life.** With 79 new client mothers added within the past 12 weeks, your continued support is appreciated. Please visit our website, [www.gpmoco.org](http://www.gpmoco.org), click on our Amazon wish list, and choose from any number of items. Also, we are in need of volunteers, especially bi-lingual ones. If you have any questions, please contact Natalie Ray at [natalieanneray@gmail.com](mailto:natalieanneray@gmail.com).

## ARE YOU COMFORTABLE USING TURBO TAX?

If yes, Catholic Charities needs you! Next February, the Catholic Charities' Tax Clinic will open its doors for the 6<sup>th</sup> tax season at Catholic University. The goal of the Tax Clinic is to help low-income families maximize their tax refund. The Tax Clinic makes sure these families claim every tax benefit they are entitled to (e.g., child tax credits, child care credits, economic stimulus payments, and earned income credits). Volunteer tax preparers are supported by Catholic Charities staff, experienced volunteers, and lawyers from the Catholic University Columbus School of Law who provide training in January. If you are interested in helping these families prepare their tax returns, please reach out to Deacon Jim Shanahan at Catholic Charities (email: [jim.shanahan@cc-dc.org](mailto:jim.shanahan@cc-dc.org) or phone: 202-262-1419).

## ARCHDIOCESAN WOMEN'S RETREAT FOR SURVIVORS

As the Church continues to minister to all survivors of abuse, the Archdiocese of Washington is sponsored a retreat for survivors. The Archdiocese will offer a women's retreat on February 18-20, 2022. This retreat is an occasion for survivors to reflect on God's plan for their lives and for healing through prayer and the sacraments. For more information go to <https://adw.org/the-way-retreat/>. To register email [mcdonald@adw.org](mailto:mcdonald@adw.org) or call Deborah McDonald at 301-853-4466.

## UPCOMING RETREATS

### OUR LADY OF BETHESDA RETREAT CENTER 7007 BRADLEY BLVD., BETHESDA MD

#### **Praying with the Heart of A Woman: January 26 & 27**

A Mini-Retreat in January. Each Mini-Retreat (evening 6:00-9:00 pm or morning 9:30 am - 12 Noon) includes: Mass, adoration, directed meditation, a practical talk, and time for personal reflection, and a meal. Cost is \$20 per person. Advance Registration is required. Babysitting will be available for the Morning Mini-Retreat. Visit our website to register [www.ourladyofbethesda.org](http://www.ourladyofbethesda.org). Hosted by the Women of Regnum Christi.

#### **Take a Personal "Retreat" Day: Feb 18 / Mar 11**

Are your days overcrowded, jam-packed, and busy, busy, busy? Jesus tells you to "Come away with me..." to Our Lady of Bethesda Retreat Center where your very own personal retreat awaits. During your personal retreat, from 8:30am-4pm, an experienced retreat director will guide you to a place of rest with Christ. The retreat schedule allows for one-on-one spiritual direction (optional), quiet reflection, Mass, Confession and Eucharistic Adoration, plus continental breakfast and lunch, so you will be nourished and cared for while Our Lord speaks to your soul about the depths of His love for you. Cost is \$120 per person. Advance Registration is required, and registrations will be limited to facilitate appropriate social distancing. Visit our website to register and to find more dates [ourladyofbethesda.org](http://ourladyofbethesda.org). Or call 301-365-0612.

#### **Marriage Workshop: Strengthening Your Love Marriage Renewal Workshop: Feb 26-27**

A Christ-centered weekend designed to offer practical tools that can help foster effective communication and emotional closeness in your marriage. Make your marriage thrive, not just survive! The expert speaker team includes Catholic psychologists, therapists, and priests who will offer their expertise and experience, plus they will be on hand the entire weekend to offer individual consultation, upon request. Please note: This is NOT an overnight program. Cost: \$400 per couple. Seating will be limited to facilitate social distancing. See our website for more details about measures to limit exposure to illness, details about the program and links to register: [www.ourladyofbethesda.org](http://www.ourladyofbethesda.org).

#### **Leading With the Heart of a Man, Men's Evenings of Reflections: Feb 3**

Join us for a new series of Monthly Reflections for Men that will highlight everyday tips for transforming your relationship with God and your Family. Each evening includes: Mass, dinner, directed meditation, a practical talk, and time for personal reflection plus the opportunity for Confession. Cost is \$20 per person, per session. Advance Registration is required. SERIES REGISTRATION: For a limited time, register for all 3 reflections for only \$45 per person. Visit our website for more details and to register [www.ourladyofbethesda.org](http://www.ourladyofbethesda.org).