

ST FRANCIS OF ASSISI, DERWOOD

Mass Intentions

February 21 - February 27, 2022

Monday, 2/21	9:00 a.m.	Henry F. Long III
Tuesday, 2/22	9:00 a.m.	Msgr. Henry Otero-Diago
Wednesday, 2/23	9:00 a.m.	Peggy Gleason
	7:30 p.m.	Ted Gregg
Thursday, 2/24	9:00 a.m.	Reverend John A. Carroll
Friday, 2/25	9:00 a.m.	Gordon & Mary Ellen Childers
Saturday, 2/26	5:00 p.m.	Flavia De Souza
Sunday, 2/27	8:00 a.m.	Serge Triau
	9:30 a.m.	Marlyce Rooney
	11:15 a.m.	James Major
	5:00 p.m.	<i>Pro populo</i>

+ In Memoriam Aeternam +

In your charity, please pray for the repose of the souls of Peggy Corner, Maureen Ferraro, wife of the late Jack Ferraro.

Please pray for the sick...Maria Joseph, Maria Espinosa, David Burnett, Lauri Frashure, Fred Kolberg, Jeanette Price, James McGuire, 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 February 20, 2022

Sunday:	1 Sm 26:2, 7-9, 12-13, 22-23/Ps 103:1-2, 3-4, 8, 10, 12-13 [8a]/1 Cor 15:45-49/Lk 6:27-38
Monday:	Jas 3:13-18/Ps 19:8, 9, 10, 15/Mk 9:14-29
Tuesday:	1 Pt 5:1-4/Ps 23:1-3a, 4, 5, 6/Mt 16:13-19
Wednesday:	Jas 4:13-17/Ps 49:2-3, 6-7, 8-10, 11/ Mk 9:38-40
Thursday:	Jas 5:1-6/Ps 49:14-15ab, 15cd-16, 17-18, 19-20/Mk 9:41-50
Friday:	Jas 5:9-12/Ps 103:1-2, 3-4, 8-9, 11-12/ Mk 10:1-12
Saturday: J	as 5:13-20/Ps 141:1-2, 3 and 8/Mk 10:13-16
Next Sunday:	Sir 27:4-7/Ps 92:2-3, 13-14, 15-16 [cf. 2a]/1 Cor 15:54-58/Lk 6:39-45

ANNUAL PANCAKE SUPPER POSTPONED UNTIL 2023

Unfortunately we will not be flipping pancakes this year. We are hopeful we will be able to gather to enjoy breakfast for dinner in 2023.

THE MUSINGS OF THE PASTOR

On January 21, 2022 Pope Francis issued a decree declaring Saint Irenaeus to be a Doctor of the Church after receiving and accepting a proposal to that effect from the Congregation of the Saints. Irenaeus is the first Doctor of the Church believed to have been a martyr. Since he died around 202, Irenaeus holds the distinction of being the most ancient of the Church's now thirty-seven Doctors of the Church. Saint Irenaeus would be most remembered today as the earliest systematic theologian for his authentic teaching of the Church's faith and defense of it in the face of errors that were emerging in the late second and early third centuries. St. Irenaeus remains a relevant model for bishops, apologists, catechists, and theologians owing to his articulation of the Gnostic heresies that are still with us today in various forms.

The autobiographical details that we have for his life are meager. Few primary sources on him exist. The only complete texts of his work exist today in later translations. Irenaeus was born around the year 130. Most likely he came from Smyrna (on the western edge of what is now Turkey). From an early age Irenaeus was associated with St. Polycarp, bishop of Smyrna, who was martyred at the age of 86. Polycarp himself had been associated with the Saint John the Apostle.

At some point Irenaeus moved from Smyrna to the Roman region of Gaul, which encompassed a large part of Western Europe (including all of present day France). He exercised ministry in what is now called Lyon - called Lugdunum in the time of Irenaeus. Lugdunum was in the second and early third centuries the largest city north of the Alps. It was a civic and cultural center as well as a population hub. The population growth of Lugdunum was owed to an influx of immigrants (including Irenaeus). Irenaeus arrived there as a missionary, according to tradition, at the direction of Polycarp to help solidify church life in that blossoming part of the Roman Empire. Toward the late 170s Irenaeus was a priest held in esteem within the local Church.

In 177 Irenaeus was sent to Rome to deliver a letter to Pope Eleutherius that was written by a group of Christians in Lugdunum who were being held captive and awaiting execution. The letter, which expressed concerns about threats to the unity of faith that were emerging in the early Church, exists as the first piece of historical evidence of Irenaeus. Just as our Lord Jesus Christ prayed before his death that the Church might be one, these martyrs followed his example and did the same. Irenaeus, whose name means "peace" in Greek, served as an emissary of peace and unity by allowing their message to be heard in Rome. Most likely this trip to Rome served to spare him from being martyred along with Saint Pothinus, the first bishop of Lugdunum, and his companions.

Continued in the column to the right....

February 20, 2022

QUESTION OF THE WEEK

Who has hurt me to whom I can give mercy? How can I go about giving mercy, giving life, to them?

SUPPORT THE 2022

ARCHDIOCESAN ANNUAL APPEAL

On February 20, all parishioners are invited to donate to the 2022 Archdiocesan Annual Appeal. The Annual Appeal supports critical services and ministries of the Church in an effective and meaningful way and supports ministries larger than any parish or agency. Parishioners are invited to contribute by check, credit card, phone, through Faith Direct or other forms of payment. Please read more at <https://adw.org/ways-to-give/annual-appeal/>. Thanks for supporting the Archdiocesan Annual Appeal!

THE MUSINGS OF THE PASTOR (continued)

Upon his return from Rome, Irenaeus succeeded the martyred Pothinus as bishop of Lugdunum. Irenaeus brought hope to his flock as he oversaw the rebuilding of ecclesial life in the city in the wake of persecution and martyrdom. Most of what remains known about the episcopal ministry of Irenaeus is his clear and systematic presentation of the Faith. This seems particularly appropriate since Irenaeus regarded a bishop, above all other functions, primarily as a teacher. Irenaeus helped to develop the concept of apostolic succession. This helped to solidify the ministry of the bishop in the early Church and underscored the bishop's authority in handing on the Church's apostolic teaching. An example of his contribution to elevate esteem for the Roman see, Irenaeus produced one of the earliest lists of the first bishops of Rome. Given his ties to St. John the Apostle, by way of his mentor St. Polycarp, Irenaeus served as a credible and public witness to the apostolic ministry.

I will talk about what St. Irenaeus taught and why he is still significant next week. Let me close today by mentioning that Irenaeus is a saint who is close to my heart. Around the time I was finishing my doctoral dissertation in 1982, I promised Father Dominic Unger, a Capuchin friar whom I had known for many years and who was dying of cancer that I would see to the publication of his translation and commentary of "Against Heresies," the major work of Irenaeus. So far three of the five volumes of the translation and commentary have been published. I hope that the naming of Saint Irenaeus as a Doctor of the Church will prove to be the impetus for the publication of the two remaining volumes of the translation and commentary on "Against Heresies."

Until next week,

Fr. John

**MAKE AN APPOINTMENT NOW
TO HAVE YOUR PICTURE TAKEN
FOR THE PARISH PICTORIAL DIRECTORY**

During our 50th anniversary year, our parish is updating its pictorial directory to help parishioners better recognize each other at church and in the community. Please make an appointment to have a professional photographer take a picture of you or your family for the directory on either March 22 or 23 in the Rectory or on April 27 or 28 in the Parish Center by signing up at <https://instant-scheduling.com/sch.php?kn=3534502&typId=64035&step=2>.

Each household that is photographed will receive one copy of the directory and a free 8" x 11" photo of their household. The photos can also be ordered for personal use right after your photo is taken. Learn more information about having your photo taken at <https://www.sfadw.org/50th-anniversary-picture-directory>. The pictorial directory will not be complete without you and your family. For more information or if you need help signing up for your appointment, contact the Parish Office at (301) 840-1407.

**LENTEN SMALL GROUPS HOPE TO BE FORMED
BY FEBRUARY 27**

With our Lenten season beginning in less than two weeks, the Adult Faith Formation team is inviting all parishioners to rejuvenate their relationship with God and sign up for a Lenten Small Group. Parishioners have three opportunities to join a Lenten Small group, including:

- Joining a discussion of Dante's "Inferno," which describes the author's journey through Hell guided by the ancient Roman poet Virgil. The group has six to eight members who will meet weekly on the Zoom platform throughout Lent. For more information, contact Director of Social Concerns and Adult Faith Formation Tony Bosnick at abosnick@sfadw.org.
- Joining a discussion of "The Spiritual Work of Racial Justice: A Month of Meditations with Ignatius of Loyola" by Patrick Saint-Jean, S.J. Each chapter contains content from Fr. Patrick followed by several journal prompts, a "for further reflection" commentary, and closes with a prayer. For more information, contact Mary Jordan, a member of the Ad-hoc Committee on Racism, at marywjordan17@gmail.com.
- Starting your own small group to discuss Renew International's "Live Lent!, Year C." This faith sharing resource incorporates prayers, meditations, and readings to help participants live their faith in their daily lives. The parish has several copies of the book, which can be used by small group participants, but additional ones can be ordered. For more information, contact Director of Social Concerns and Adult Faith Formation Tony Bosnick at abosnick@sfadw.org.

The Adult Faith Formation team is aiming to have all small groups in place by February 27, so that needed materials can be ordered. For more information, contact Bosnick at abosnick@sfadw.org.



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROGRAM NEWS

**SUNDAY GROUP B ELEMENTARY CLASSES
MEET NEXT ON FEBRUARY 27**

**MONDAY & TUESDAY MIDDLE SCHOOL
CLASSES MEET FEBRUARY 28 & MARCH 1**

RE CLASS SCHEDULE REMINDERS

Please note that Religious Education classes will not meet this week, Sunday, Monday, and Tuesday, February 20, 21 & 22, in observance of the Presidents' Day holiday.

CONFIRMATION CANDIDATE SESSION: TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 22

Confirmation candidates will meet on Tuesday, February 22, for Confirmation class from 6:45-8:30 pm in the Parish Center.

SAVE THE DATE FOR VACATION BIBLE CAMP!

St. Francis of Assisi Church invites children from age 4 to those who will complete the 5th Grade in June 2022 to join us at Vacation Bible Camp, June 27-July 1. Program details will be announced this spring! Watch our parish website for camper registration and information about volunteer opportunities for adults and teens: <https://sfadw.org/vbc>.

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
- 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

PARISH OFFICE CLOSED ON PRESIDENTS' DAY

The Parish Office will be closed Monday, February 21, in observance of Presidents' Day. The office will reopen at 8 am Tuesday, February 22.

Spotlight on St. Jude Regional Catholic School

We are...St. Jude

www.StJudeRockville.org

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

St. Jude Regional Catholic School has limited openings in Pre-k, 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and 5th grades. Register now at <https://www.stjuderockville.org/admissions/apply-now> to be part of our joyful community!

GIRLS ON THE RUN

IS BACK FOR THE SPRING SESSION!

This program inspires girls to be joyful, healthy, and confident using a fun, experience-based curriculum which creatively integrates running. Join the Fun! Girls in 3rd through 5th grades are invited. You don't have to love running. Learn about yourself! Explore who you are and build your confidence. Practices will be on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 3:30 pm to 4:45 pm beginning March 15th. The regular fee for the program is \$175, but financial scholarships are available. No student will be turned away for financial reasons.

Please visit <https://www.girlsontherunofmoco.org/Register-Now> to register. Contact Mrs. Merideth at Victoria.Merideth@stjuderockville.org with any questions

SJRCS March Madness

Our traditional 8th grade vs. Faculty and Parents basketball game is set to be played on Thursday, March 10th at St. Patrick's Catholic School. Doors open at 6:00 pm. All are invited!

BLACK HISTORY PRESENTATION

In honor of Black History Month, St. Mary's Church 520 Veirs Mill Rd., Rockville, MD., is delighted to announce a presentation on **Wednesday, February, 23, 2022 at 7:00 pm** (School Building) by Miss Ogechi Akaleghere entitled **Looking Back and Moving Forward – A Catholic Response to Racism**. Miss Akaleghere, a parishioner of St. Rose of Lima parish, is the Christian Service Coordinator at the Connelly School of the Holy Child in Potomac, MD. She was recently recognized with the Cardinal Bernardin New Leadership Award. There will be an opportunity for questions, discussion and prayer. The event is free but a RSVP is requested to stmaryrockville@yahoo.com or call the parish office 301-424-5550.

SPRING 40 DAYS FOR LIFE CAMPAIGN COINCIDES WITH LENTEN SEASON

Save the date for the Spring 40 Days for Life Campaign, which will happen March 2 - April 10 during the Lenten season. Please follow news and updates through the 40 Days for Life campaign web site at www.40DaysforLife.com/Rockville. Our Respect Life Ministry will soon choose a date during the campaign on which St. Francis of Assisi parishioners are encouraged to pray for the unborn along the sidewalk of Jackson Place in Rockville, where an abortion facility is located. For more information, please contact Respect Life Ministry Coordinator Lita Silva at litasilva4@gmail.com.

50TH ANNIVERSARY DATES TO KEEP IN MIND

Sunday, May 29

50th Anniversary Mass 11:15 A.M. at St. Francis with Cardinal Gregory.

Sunday, June 5

50th Anniversary Celebration Mass at St. Francis at 11:15 a.m. followed by a 50th Anniversary Festival on parish grounds.

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).



JOIN KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS MONTGOMERY COUNCIL, 2323 FOR THE LENTEN FISH DINNER

March 4th

Enjoy the Lenten season with family, friends and the community. The first fish dinner will be on Friday March 4th. Dinner will be served from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm Father Cuddy Hall, located 17001 Overhill, Rd. Derwood. Tickets will be sold at the door \$10.00 for Adults, \$5.00 for Children 6 and under. Dinner includes fried fish, coleslaw, macaroni and cheese, and dessert. Beer, wine, soda, and coffee are included. The dinner supports various charities supported by the council. For further information contact Pete Carlson PGCARLSON@GMAIL.COM. Follow us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/kofc2323 "Sit down Dinner or Carry out Available"

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.

OLD PALMS

We will be collecting old palms through *Sunday, February 27*. Please place your palms in the Palm Collection Box in the Gathering Space.

WHAT DOES THE PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL DO?

During our recent Parish Listening Sessions, many participants stated that they did not know what the Parish Pastoral Council is and what it does. According to "Selecting Effective Pastoral Council Members" by Mark F. Fisher and Sister Rosalie Murphy, pastoral councils are "consultative in nature, a medium for communication, and models for cooperation and collaboration." Along with the parish Finance Council, the advisory body helps the pastor make decisions and occasionally studies issues that would impact the parish at large. The parish Pastoral Council generally meets on the third Thursday of every month on Zoom; the meeting minutes are posted on the parish web site. Read past minutes of Parish Pastoral Council minutes at <https://www.sfadw.org/pastoral-council-meeting-minutes>. For more information, contact the Parish Office at (301) 840-1407.

MOURNING THE DEATH OF A CHILD

The Compassionate Friends (TCF) is an organization that can offer help to bereaved parents. TCF is an informal support group of mothers and fathers who know and understand the tragic impact that the death of a child has on a family. St. Francis parishioners Barbara and George Beall have been active members of TCF since their daughter died of cancer in 2004.

Meetings are held on the first Thursday of each month at 7 pm at Potomac Presbyterian Church. There are no professional counselors, only parents who are willing to share their experiences with non-judgmental and understanding listeners. Everything is confidential, and there are no fees of any kind. If you would like more information, or to receive a TCF brochure, please call George or Barbara at (301) 253-8740. Their e-mail address is oldedish@starpower.net. You may contact them for help any time of the day or night.

LENTEN WORKSHOP

CARMEL: EXPERIENCE FRIENDSHIP WITH GOD

Saturday, March 5, 9am - 12 Noon

Woodlands Room - St. Rose of Lima Parish, Gaithersburg
The workshop is sponsored by the Flower of Carmel Lay Carmelite Community. Fr. Nepi Willemsen O.Carm will lead the workshop. The workshop will be held online and in-person. To sign-up to attend in person or receive a link to join online please visit Flowerofcarmellcc.weebly.com.

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.

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.

A REMINDER FROM FR. JOHN ... If anyone is living in a marriage that has not been recognized by the Catholic Church, you are invited to consult with a priest to see whether that situation might be rectified. It could be as simple as repeating your marriage vows quietly in front of a priest and receiving the Church's blessing. In that way, one would become eligible to receive the Sacraments of the Church, especially the Eucharist

NIGHTLY ROSARY

If you would welcome a time-out from your busy schedule, come join us in prayer. Since September 2018, the Council of Catholic Women (CCW) has been hosting a nightly Rosary call for the healing of the Church. We also pray for healing from the COVID pandemic and for callers' personal intentions. All (men, women, children, non-CCW members) are welcome to join us any night of the week or every night of the week. How often is up to you. How about once a month on your birthdate? Please join us at 8:00 p.m. as we read meditations on the Rosary's mysteries and pray together. Remember, in prayer we are never alone. Call 605-468-8016, code 357090# 8:00 p.m., 7 days a week.

VIRTUAL PRAYER SERVICES AT ST. FRANCIS

We invite you to join us for virtual prayer services during this Season of Ordinary Time.

- Morning Prayer at 7:30 am every day. Hosted by a member of the Liturgy of the Hours Ministry.
- Evening Prayer at 7:30 pm every day. Hosted by a member of the Liturgy of the Hours Ministry.
- Parish Rosary at 4:00 pm every Monday, Wednesday and Friday. Led by Fr. John Dillon.
- Rosary In Spanish at 6:30 pm every Wednesday. Led by Deacon Will Garcia.

Please visit our website www.sfadw.org "Worship" for links to these different prayer services.

UPCOMING RETREATS

OUR LADY OF BETHESDA RETREAT CENTER 7007 BRADLEY

Take a Personal "Retreat" Day: Mar 11/Mar 18

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. 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.

Teach Me Your Ways, O Lord Lenten Retreat Weekend For Women Mar 5-6, 2021

New COMMUTER Option for weekend retreats! Grow in your faith and become spiritually stronger this Lent. Explore your mission in life and experience His Presence in the silence! Silent retreat weekend with overnight and commuter options to attend. Registration is required. Cost w/ overnight: \$250 per person; Commuter cost: \$210 per person. Find more retreats and links to register on the website www.ourladyofbethesda.org. Our Lady of Bethesda Retreat Center, A Place to Encounter Christ! 7007 Bradley Blvd., Bethesda, MD 20817. Plan your next retreat today!

Holy Land Pilgrimage this Summer June 20-July 1

Explore the Holy Land and experience the places where Christ lived! Our Lady of Bethesda will host a pilgrimage to the Holy Land this June. "A Destination Retreat" this trip will incorporate each holy site with the dynamics of the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius of Loyola. Travel Dates: June 20-July 1. Cost: All-inclusive LAND price \$3,500 per person on double occupancy basis. Find more details on our website: www.ourladyofbethesda.org, or contact Pilgrimage Coordinator: Cristina Tallent at ctallent@ourladyofbethesda.org or 301-365-0612