

ST FRANCIS OF ASSISI, DERWOOD

Mass Intentions

December 26– January 1, 2023

Monday, 12/26	9:00 a.m.	Charlotte Dillon Fitzgerald
Tuesday, 12/27	9:00 a.m.	Benicio Huaman
Wednesday, 12/28	9:00 a.m.	Catherine Celeste Dillon
	7:30 p.m.	Jackie Komlo
Thursday, 12/29	9:00 a.m.	Mary Stehle Rockenstein
Friday, 12/30	9:00 a.m.	RE Catechists & Families (L)
Saturday, 12/31	5:00 p.m.	<i>Pro populo</i>
Sunday, 1/1	8:00 a.m.	Xavier Joseph
	9:30 a.m.	Gloria Reinoso
	11:15 a.m.	Francis Anthony Ciccone
	1:00 p.m.	Gaby & Rod O'Connor

NO 5 PM MASS

In Memoriam Aeternam +

In your charity, please pray for the repose of the souls of Leonard Brannan, brother of Chris King, Ingrid Abt.

Please pray for the sick... Patrice Datovech, Gloria Reinoso, Emily Strominger-Weiss, Nicole Behrus Weiss, Carolina Uechi, Fr. William Brailsford, Christine Vilgos-Mitchell, Pedro Ustrell, Carmella Spano, Mark Patterson, Michael Waple, Sophia Jusko, Debra Price, Barbara Schmidt, 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 December 26, 2022

Sunday: Vigil:	Is 62:1-5/Ps 89:4-5, 16-17, 27, 29 (2a)/ Acts 13:16-17, 22-25/Mt 1:1-25 or 1:18-25
Night:	Is 9:1-6/Ps 96:1-2, 2-3, 11-12, 13/Ti 2:11-14/ Lk 2:1-14
Dawn:	Is 62:11-12/Ps 97:1, 6, 11-12/Ti 3:4-7/Lk 2:15-20
Day:	Is 52:7-10/Ps 98:1, 2-3, 3-4, 5-6 [3]/Heb 1:1-6/ Jn 1:1-18 or 1:1-5, 9-14
Monday:	Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59/Ps 31:3cd-4, 6 and 8ab, 16bc and 17/Mt 10:17-22
Tuesday:	1 Jn 1:1-4/Ps 97:1-2, 5-6, 11-12/Jn 20:1a, 2-8
Wednesday:	1 Jn 1:5—2:2/Ps 124:2-3, 4-5, 7b-8/Mt 2:13-18
Thursday:	1 Jn 2:3-11/Ps 96:1-2a, 2b-3, 5b-6/Lk 2:22-35
Friday:	Sir 3:2-6, 12-14 or Col 3:12-21 or 3:12-17/ Ps 128:1-2, 3, 4-5/Mt 2:13-15, 19-23
Saturday:	1 Jn 2:18-21/Ps 96:1-2, 11-12, 13/Jn 1:1-18
Next Sunday:	Nm 6:22-27/Ps 67:2-3, 5, 6, 8 (2a)/Gal 4:4-7/ Lk 2:16-21

THE MUSINGS OF THE PASTOR

In my column today I want to print what is probably the most reprinted editorial in any newspaper in the English language. This has become a Christmas custom for me. I am happy to do it again this year. Enjoy!

In 1897, the New York Sun received a letter to the Editor from Virginia O'Hanlon, who was eight years old and a resident of New York City. Her letter was only four sentences long:

Dear Editor:

I am eight years old. Some of my little friends say there is no Santa Claus. Papa says: "If you see it in THE SUN it's so. Please tell me the truth: is there a Santa Claus?" Virginia O'Hanlon. 115 West Ninety-Fifth Street.

Francis Pharcellus Church was the editor of THE SUN who was assigned to answer little Virginia's letter. Church had served as a war correspondent during the American Civil War, a time that saw a great deal of suffering and lack of hope and faith in much of society. He saw in Virginia's letter (for which she may have had some help in composition from her father, Dr. Philip O'Hanlon) an opportunity to address this. Let's enjoy reading this wonderful piece on this Christmas day.

Virginia, your little friends are wrong. They have been affected by the skepticism of a skeptical age. They do not believe except they see. They think that nothing can be which is not comprehensible by their little minds. All minds, Virginia, whether they be men's or children's, are little. In this great universe of ours man is a mere insect, an ant, in his intellect, as compared with the boundless world about him, as measured by the intelligence capable of grasping the whole truth and knowledge.

Yes, Virginia, there is a Santa Claus. He exists as certainly as love and generosity and devotion exists, and you know that they abound and give joy to your life its highest beauty and joy. Alas! How dreary would the world be if there were no Santa Claus. It would be as dreary as if there were no Virginias. There would be no childlike faith then, no poetry, no romance to make tolerable this existence. We should have no enjoyment, except in sense and delight. The eternal light with which childhood fills the world would be extinguished.

Not believe in Santa Claus! You might as well not believe in fairies! You might get your papa to hire men to watch in all the chimneys on Christmas Eve to watch Santa Claus, but even if they did not see Santa Claus coming down, what would that prove? Nobody sees Santa Claus, but that is no sign there is no Santa Claus. The most real things in the world are those that neither children nor men can see. Did you ever see fairies dancing on the lawn? Of course not, but that's not proof that they are not there. Nobody can conceive or imagine all the wonders that are unseen and unseeable in the world.

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

December 25, 2022

QUESTION OF THE WEEK

Can I accept Jesus into my heart despite the darkness that already dwells there? How can I show that I have accepted Jesus into my heart?

WELCOME FR. CARLOS PIEDRAHITA

Reverend Fr. Carlos Piedrahita, P.S.S. will be visiting our parish next weekend to speak at all the Masses on behalf of Cross Catholic Outreach which was founded to create a meaningful link between parishes in America and the priests and nuns working in the Church overseas in the Caribbean, Africa, Asia, Central and South America.



*Merry Christmas from Fr. John, Fr G,
Fr. William & the Parish Staff!*

**PLEASE RETURN YOUR OFFERTORY
COMMITMENT FORMS BY DECEMBER 31**

Before 2022 ends, would you commit to supporting our parish offertory? Fr. John Dillon asks all adult parishioners to consider establishing or expanding their ongoing financial support to the parish to help fund our parish operations, ministries such as Religious Education and Adult Faith Formation, and good works, including our work in our sister parish in Haiti. You can either establish online giving through Faith Direct at <https://membership.faithdirect.net/MD110> or return a paper offertory commitment form that can be picked up in the Parish Office. Thanks for your generous support of our parish! For more information, please contact the Parish Office at (301) 840-1407.

THE MUSINGS OF THE PASTOR (continued)

You may tear apart the baby's rattle and see what makes the noise inside, but there is a veil covering the unseen world which not the strongest man, nor even the united strength of all the strongest men that ever lived, could tear apart. Only faith, fancy, poetry, love, romance can push aside that curtain and view and picture the supernal beauty and glory beyond. Is it all read? Ah, Virginia, in all this world there is nothing else real and abiding.

No Santa Claus! Thank GOD! He lives and he lives forever. A thousand years from now, Virginia, nay, ten times ten thousand years from now, he will continue to make glad the heart of childhood.

Merry Christmas to all!

Until next week,
Fr. John Dillon
Pastor

CHRISTMAS 2022 SCHEDULE



***January 1, Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God
Holy Day of Obligation***

Saturday, December 31 Vigil Mass - 5:00 p.m.
Sunday, January 1 8:00 ,9:30 & 11:15 a.m.
1:00 p.m. *Espanol*

No 5:00 p.m. Mass

**PARISH OFFICES WILL CLOSE
AT 12 NOON ON FRIDAY,
DECEMBER 30
&
WILL BE CLOSED MONDAY,
, JANUARY 2, 2023**

HAPPY NEW YEAR!!

**REMINDER
PARISH PICTURE DIRECTORIES
ARE IN!**

If you had your picture taken for the Parish Directory you can pick up your copy of the Directory from the Parish Office

2022 CONTRIBUTION STATEMENTS

To receive credit in 2022, your contributions must be dated December 31, 2022. If you are mailing a contribution, it must be received in the parish Office on or before Monday, January 2, 2023. As a reminder, the parish statement of contributions will not include your FAITHDIRECT contributions. You will receive a statement directly from FAITHDIRECT.

2022-23 RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CLASSES

Even though Religious Education classes have started, space is still available and children are welcome to begin classes once registration is received and processed. Registration forms can be found in the Gathering Space, the Parish Offices, and also on the parish website. Please call the Religious Education Office if need more information: 301-258-9193. **Children must be registered before they can begin classes.**

RE CLASS SCHEDULE AND THE CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS

There are NO Religious Education classes on the following days:

- Sunday, Monday and Tuesday,
December 25, 26 & 27.
- Sunday, Monday, and Tuesday,
January 1, 2 & 3.

Religious Education classes will resume on January 8, 9 & 10.

FIRST RECONCILIATION PREP DAY – SATURDAY, JANUARY 7

Children preparing to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation for the first time will attend a day of preparation on Saturday, January 7 from 9:00 am - 12:30 pm in the Parish Center (Snow date: January 14). Please pray for these children who will receive this Sacrament on Saturday, January 21.

PARENT MEETING FOR HOMESCHOOL OPTION RE

The Online Parent Meeting: Unit 3 Overview for families sharing in this year's homeschool religious education program will be from 1-2 pm on Sunday, January 8. Families registered for the Homeschool option will receive an email with link to join.

SNOW/EMERGENCY CANCELLATION POLICY

If Montgomery County Public Schools are closed for weather, 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.

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. If interested in learning more, contact Gary Palmer (301-948-6494 or email gtdbpalmer@verizon.net).

Spotlight on St. Jude Regional Catholic School We are...St. Jude

www.StJudeRockville.org

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

*Dear St. Francis Families,
The faculty and staff at St. Jude Regional Catholic School wish you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! Thank you for your donations to the St. Jude Scholarship fund. We raised over \$25,000 in the #GIVECATHOLIC fundraiser. Because of your generosity many students will be able to continue or begin their Catholic education at St. Jude's. Thank you again and know that you are in our daily school prayers.*

Enrollment for next year is now opened for all. We have limited space in PreK-8th grade. ADW financial aid is opened for all new families and closes on February 18, 2022.

Please go to the St. Jude website <https://www.stjuderockville.org/> to register, and to apply for financial aid. As a student at St. Jude's your child will receive an excellent education, and more importantly will grow closer to God and learn to love Him with all their heart, soul, and mind. If you have any questions, please reach out to me.

Join us on March 12th for our 80's theme gala. It will be a fun evening of music, food, and friends. More information will be available soon.

*Thank you again for your support and prayers.
St. Jude Thaddeus... Pray for us.*

God Bless,

*Jeanne Donatelli
Principal*

*St. Jude Regional Catholic School
4820 Walbridge St. Rockville, MD. 20853
301-946-7888*

SAVE THE DATE FOR THE MASS FOR ALL GOD'S CHILDREN ON JANUARY 8

On Sunday, January 8, the Mass for All God's Children will be returning to St. Francis of Assisi Parish for the first time in three years. Join us at the 5 pm Mass on the Feast of the Epiphany to celebrate a liturgy celebrating the gifts of all God's children, especially those of people with special needs and developmental differences. A reception will follow the Mass in the Gathering Space.

Ministry Coordinator Sylvia Jones would like to hear from older youth (14+) who would like to serve as usher mentors and participants -- or the parents of participants -- who would like to have a role in the Mass. Please contact Sylvia at decaffqueen@gmail.com or on her cell at (240) 755-2247.

REGISTER AND BUY YOUR STUDY GUIDE FOR UPCOMING WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

This winter, a small group Bible study opportunity will be available for women from 10:15 am-11:45 am Thursdays in the Kuehner Room. The first six-week study will be based on the book of Ephesians; it will begin on Thursday, January 5, and end on Thursday, February 9. For the study of Ephesians we will use a study guide, "Fearless and Free," which makes scripture and related teachings of the Catholic Church relevant and applicable for all women. Go to www.walkingwithpurpose.com to purchase your copy of the study guide. Study guides can be made available at no charge - just ask. Give a gift to yourself and come learn more about the Bible with other women of faith. To receive a link to register or for additional information, contact Eileen Grams at ehaleygrams@gmail.com or Lita Silva, litasilva4@gmail.com.

NEXT HAITI BENEFIT CONCERT SCHEDULED FOR JANUARY 22

Please mark your calendar for the Haiti Benefit Concert, taking place at 7 pm Sunday, January 22, in the church. Director of Music Ministry Janet Pate will play, alongside regular cellist Stephen Czarkowski and violinist Andrew Nixon. The concert will benefit the schools and medical mission in our sister parish of Léon, Haiti. For more information, please contact the Parish Office at (301) 840-1407.

DONATE YOUR GENTLY USED WINTER OUTERWEAR STARTING JANUARY 9

Did you get a new coat this Christmas season? If so, please deposit your clean and gently used coats, hats, gloves, mittens, and scarves to the designated box in the Gathering Space from January 9-23 to benefit patrons at the Montgomery County Family Center, operated by Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Washington. Thanks for ensuring your gently used outerwear items will benefit those who need them this winter!

NEED MARRIAGE HELP?

Do you feel alone? Are you frustrated or angry with each other? Do you argue, or have you just stopped talking to each other? Retrouvaille (retro-vi) has helped tens of thousands of couples struggling in their marriage. For confidential information or to register for the upcoming program beginning with a weekend on January 20th, please visit: www.HelpOurMarriage.org, call (443) 400-7017, or email us at: 3015@HelpOurMarriage.org

FORMED

THE CATHOLIC FAITH ON DEMAND

The best Catholic content. All in one place. It's EASY and FREE to Register!

- 1) Go to sfadw.formed.org
- 2) Click "Register" and enter your name, email address, and desired password
- 3) You're all ready to access the inspiring and Engaging content on FORMED!
- 4) Enjoy and share with others in our local community!

FORMED is available 24/7 for you to grow in your faith. St. Francis has purchased this gift for parish use.

ST. MARTIN'S FOOD PANTRY SHORTAGES

Canned Soup
Canned Fruit
Canned Beans (black/kidney/red, etc.)
Dry Unsweetened Cereal
Pasta
Pasta Sauce
Meals in a can (stew, canned pasta, chili, etc.)
Dry Rice/Beans

Baby Formula: Similac Blue & Similac Orange, and/or domestic or foreign equivalents/substitutes.
Diapers: Sizes 3, 5 & 6
Pediasure

Ensure for Adults

Paper Bags (Trader Joe size or similar).
Plastic Newspaper Bags
Plastic Grocery Bags
12-egg cartons (Plastic)

Please place donations in the St. Martin's Food Pantry Bin in the Gathering Space or the Rectory front porch if the church is locked.

Special thanks go to all those helping us to help our neighbors in need!

A REMINDER FROM FR. JOHN ... If anyone is living in a marriage that has not been recognized by the Catholic Church, it would be wise 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

THE GABRIEL PROJECT

The Gabriel Project Cluster of Montgomery County serves mothers and their families in crisis pregnancies. During the past 6 months, 181 mothers have requested assistance. Please help us provide maternity clothes and winter clothing for newborns and older children of our client families. **We especially need girl/boy 0-3 months, girls' size 6 everything, long-sleeve boys' size 5-16.** New or gently used clothing is greatly appreciated, or go to our Website, www.gpmoco.org. Click on our Amazon *wishlist* and choose from any number of items. We also need women volunteers to serve as Angel Friends. *Please pray about joining our team of over 90 Angel Friends who stay in touch with client mothers during their pregnancies.* **We especially need bi-lingual women to serve as Angel Friends.** A volunteer photographer is also needed. Questions? Contact Natalie Ray at natalieanneray@gmail.com.

Anuncios para el boletín del 25 de diciembre de 2022

Horario de la Misa de Navidad:

¡Únase a nosotros para celebrar el nacimiento de Jesucristo en nuestra Misa de Navidad en Español a la 1 pm el domingo 25 de diciembre en la iglesia! Esperamos celebrar esta feliz ocasión con la comunidad de habla hispana en este alegre día. Usted y sus familias también están invitados a unirse a nosotros en una de nuestras Misas de Navidad en inglés en la iglesia. Los horarios de misa son los siguientes:

- Sábado 24 de diciembre, Nochebuena: Misas a las 4 pm, 6 pm, 8 pm y 11 pm.
- Domingo 25 de diciembre, día de Navidad: Misas a las 9:30 am y 11:15 am.

¡Vengan, adorémoslo!

Devuelva sus formularios de compromiso de ofertorio antes del 31 de diciembre

Antes de que finalice el 2022, ¿se comprometería a apoyar nuestro ofertorio parroquial? Padre John Dillon les pide a todos los feligreses adultos que consideren establecer ó expandir su apoyo financiero continuo a la parroquia para ayudar a financiar nuestras operaciones parroquiales, ministerios como Educación Religiosa y Formación de Fe para Adultos, y buenas obras, incluido nuestro trabajo en nuestra parroquia hermana en Haití. Puede establecer donaciones en línea a través de Faith Direct en <https://membership.faihdirect.net/MD110> ó devolver un formulario de compromiso de ofertorio en papel que se puede recoger en la Oficina Parroquial. ¡Gracias por su generoso apoyo a nuestra parroquia! Para obtener más información, comuníquese con la Oficina Parroquial al (301) 840-1407.

Reserve la fecha para la misa para Todos los Hijos de Dios el 8 de enero

El domingo 8 de enero, la Misa para Todos los Hijos de Dios regresará a la parroquia de San Francisco de Asís por primera vez en tres años. Únase a nosotros en la Misa de las 5 pm en la Fiesta de la Epifanía para celebrar una liturgia que celebra los dones de todos los hijos de Dios, especialmente aquellos de las personas con necesidades especiales y diferencias de desarrollo. Una recepción seguirá a la Misa en el Espacio de Reunión.

A la Coordinadora del Ministerio, Sylvia Jones, le gustaría saber de jóvenes mayores (14+) que deseen servir como mentores de ujieres y participantes -- ó los padres de los participantes -- que deseen tener un rol en la Misa. Por favor comuníquese con Sylvia en decaffqueen@gmail.com ó a su celular al (240) 755-2247.

Próximo concierto benéfico en Haití programado para el 22 de enero

Marque su calendario para el Concierto Benéfico de Haití, que tendrá lugar el domingo, 22 de enero a las 7 pm, en la iglesia. La directora del Ministerio de Música, Janet Pate, tocará junto con el violonchelista habitual Stephen Czarkowski y el violinista Andrew Nixon. El concierto beneficiará a las escuelas y la misión médica en nuestra parroquia hermana de Léon, Haití. Para obtener más información, comuníquese con la Oficina Parroquial al (301) 840-1407.

Mensaje Urgente para las personas Pro-Vida!

¿Está buscando una manera de poner sus principios en acción? El Proyecto Gabriel, región del Condado de Montgomery, www.gpmoco.org, una organización sin fines de lucro y totalmente voluntaria en Maryland, brinda ayuda con recursos esenciales y ayuda espiritual a madres gestantes, y en necesidad. Durante los últimos dos meses, la cantidad de solicitudes por ayuda ha aumentado de 1 a 2-4 por día. Por favor, considere unirse a un grupo de más de 70 mujeres Amigas-ángeles (*Angel Friend*) voluntarias quienes están en contacto con las mamás/gestantes clientes durante sus embarazos. Para la mayoría de las voluntarias el tiempo que dedican es de menos de 2 horas por semana. **Especialmente necesitamos voluntarias bilingües.** ¿Preguntas? Por favor, comuníquese con Natalie Ray natalieanneray@gmail.com.



FELIZ NAVIDAD
Padre John, Padre G,
Padre William &
los empleados de la parroquia!