

Mass Intentions

February 6 - February 12, 2023

Monday, 2/6	9:00 a.m.	Dennis Walsh
Tuesday, 2/7	9:00 a.m.	Sadie Lue
Wednesday, 2/8	9:00 a.m.	James Galvin
	7:30 p.m.	Mary-Louise Raynor
Thursday, 2/9	9:00 a.m.	Sadie Lue
Friday, 2/10	9:00 a.m.	Gilda Beyer
Saturday, 2/11	5:00 p.m.	Gemma Palini
Sunday, 2/12	8:00 a.m.	Stewart D. Young
	9:30 a.m.	<i>Pro populo</i>
	11:15 a.m.	Julian Ruffin
	1:00 p.m.	Moses Huerta (L)
	5:00 p.m.	James Patrick Maguire

In Memoriam Aeternam +

In your charity, please pray for the repose of the souls of Rodrique Lafontant, father of Ketlard Boursiquot, Valentine Joseph Rosiak, brother of John Rosiak, Carmella Spano.

Please pray for the sick... Bernard Nagy, Michael James Bender, Laura Frashure, Karen Shimp, Joan Dudenhoeffer, Nicole Behrens-Weiss, Don Reid, Christine Vilgos-Mitchell, Pedro Ustrell, Mark Patterson, Michael Waple, Sophia Jusko, Debra Price, Barbara Schmidt, Angelica Santos, Allison Brauer, Frank Knorr, Allan Degen, Bob Jones, 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 5, 2023

Sunday:	Is 58:7-10/Ps 112:4-5, 6-7, 8-9 (4a)/1 Cor 2:1-5/Mt 5:13-16
Monday:	Gn 1:1-19/Ps 104:1-2a, 5-6, 10 and 12, 24 and 35c/Mk 6:53-56
Tuesday:	Gn 1:20—2:4a/Ps 8:4-5, 6-7, 8-9/Mk 7:1-13
Wednesday:	Gn 2:4b-9, 15-17/Ps 104:1-2a, 27-28, 29bc-30/Mk 7:14-23
Thursday:	Gn 2:18-25/Ps 128:1-2, 3, 4-5/Mk 7:24-30
Friday:	Gn 3:1-8/Ps 32:1-2, 5, 6, 7/Mk 7:31-37
Saturday:	Gn 3:9-24/Ps 90:2, 3-4abc, 5-6, 12-13/Mk 8:1-10
Next Sunday:	Sir 15:15-20/Ps 119:1-2, 4-5, 17-18, 33-34 (1b)/1 Cor 2:6-10/Mt 5:17-37 or 5:20-22a, 27-28, 33-34a, 37

THE MUSINGS OF THE PASTOR

On Easter Sunday in 1112 the porter at a poor monastery in Burgundy had his hands full! A crowd of noblemen had arrived and were waiting outside the monastery door. Why had these noblemen come? Did they want to loot the monastery? Was there another complaint about a land dispute? Imagine the porter's shock when he found out that they had all come to enter the struggling monastery! Who was responsible for thirty noblemen wanting to enter what was then called the "New Monastery"? The answer: a young nobleman we now know as St. Bernard of Clairvaux (1090-1153), a future abbot and Doctor of the Church.

Many stories are told about this great figure of the twelfth century. One great story is that when he decided to enter monastic life, he wasn't going to do it alone. He traveled back and forth in feudal Burgundy, cajoling his friends and relatives to heed God's call and accompany him to the "New Monastery." Some hagiographers have gone so far as to write that "mother hid their sons when Bernard came near, and wives clung to their husbands to prevent them from going to hear him" (*First Life*, chapter 6). Even when we allow for the fact that these stories are certainly exaggerated, the truth is that when Bernard arrived at the gate at the "New Monastery" at Citeaux that Easter with thirty companions, the Cistercian order was on its way to becoming the great success of twelfth century monasticism. By the time of Bernard's death in 1153, there were no less than 343 Cistercian houses. That is truly phenomenal growth in just forty-one years.

Within three years after his entrance at Citeaux, he was sent to be the abbot of Clairvaux, one of four daughter houses of Citeaux. For about ten years he quietly studied Scripture and the writings of the Fathers of the Church. From 1128 until his death, he was indispensable in helping to run the church. His personality is well conveyed through his extensive correspondence. He could certainly be blunt as he was in this letter to the newly consecrated bishop of Geneva: "The bishop's throne for which you, my dear friend, were lately chosen, demands many virtues, none of which, I grieve to say, could be discerned in you, at any rate in any strength, before your consecration." To a nun who was contemplating leaving her monastery Bernard gave this witty advice: "If you are one of the foolish virgins, the convent is necessary for you. If you are one of the wise virgins, you are necessary for the convent."

The light of history has not shone well on some of the causes with which Bernard was involved. One would be his harsh dispute with Peter Abelard. Another would be his preaching on behalf of the Second Crusade—which turned out to be a disaster. He is best remembered for his extensive writings, notably his mystical commentaries on the Song of Songs and his treatises on the Blessed Virgin Mary.

Pope Benedict XVI devoted his General Audience on October 21, 2009, to St. Bernard of Clairvaux. I would like to end this column with his closing remarks given on that occasion:

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

February 5, 2023

QUESTION OF THE WEEK

What specific concrete action can I take this week to reflect the light of Christ to the world?

MANY MINISTRIES, ONE CHURCH 2023 ANNUAL APPEAL

The 2023 Annual Appeal is an archdiocesan program that unites our parish with our archbishop in serving the many, charitable needs of the Church of Washington. These ministries include seminarian formation, campus ministry programs, and ministries for the Deaf and people with special needs. Please know that 100 percent of your gift to the Annual Appeal is restricted to the ministries that are a part of the Annual Appeal and cannot be used for any other purpose. Please see today's bulletin insert for more information on the Annual Appeal and a letter from our Pastor, Fr. John.

SHADY GROVE PREGNANCY CENTER EXPRESSES THANKS

Shady Grove Pregnancy Center Executive Director Kathleen Garcia recently sent a thank you letter to Fr. John Dillon, expressing her organization's gratitude for the \$1,084.15 parishioners donated during its Baby Bottle Campaign. The financial gift helps the nonprofit organization provide women the hope they need to choose life for their babies; supports families with needed services; and helps demonstrate the love of Christ in the community. "We thank you sincerely for your campaign," Garcia wrote in the letter dated December 14. For more information about the Shady Grove Pregnancy or the Baby Bottle Campaign, please contact Director of Social Concerns and Adult Faith Formation Tony Bosnick at abosnick@sfadw.org.

THE MUSINGS OF THE PASTOR (continued)

"I would like to conclude these reflections on St. Bernard with the invocation to Mary that we read in one of his beautiful homilies: 'In danger, in distress, in uncertainty,' he says, 'think of Mary, call upon Mary. She never leaves your lips, she never departs from your heart; and so that you may obtain the help of her prayers, never forget the example of her life. If you follow her, you cannot falter; if you pray to her, you cannot despair; if you think of her, you cannot err. If she sustains you, you will not stumble; if she protects you, you have nothing to fear; if she guides you, you will never flag; If she is favorable to you, you will attain your goal....' (Hom. II super Missus est, 17: PL 183, 70-71)."

Until next week,
Fr. John

PRAYER AND LIFE WORKSHOP SERIES IN SPANISH BEGINS FEBRUARY 11

Starting Saturday February 11, our parish will begin hosting a Prayer and Life Workshop in Spanish, led by Herber Godinez, from 9-11 am in the Assisi Room of the Rectory. The class is 15 weeks long and will meet weekly for two hours. Please join us! For more information, please contact Deacon Will Garcia at wagarcia@comcast.net.

SIGN UP FOR THE CATHOLIC ADVOCACY NETWORK

With the Maryland General Assembly in session for just over three weeks, state legislators have already introduced approximately 500 bills impacting the lives of our state's residents. The Maryland Catholic Conference, which is the public policy voice for Catholics in Maryland, tracks legislation important to Catholics and sends out action alerts inviting Catholics to weigh in on bills of interest. These could include proposed legislation on physician assisted suicide, the enshrinement of abortion in the state's constitution, and the decreased funding of scholarships allowing children from households of limited incomes to attend Catholic schools. Sign up for the Catholic Advocacy Network to receive the action alerts at <https://p2a.co/DaVleF4>.

In other news, the Maryland Catholic Conference will host a live discussion on curbing gun violence at 6:30 pm Monday, February 13, with Baltimore Archbishop William Lori and state legislative leaders; more details will be shared. The 2023 virtual Catholic Advocacy Day will also be held Wednesday, February 15. For more information on Catholic advocacy issues, please contact Director of Social Concerns and Adult Faith Formation Tony Bosnick at abosnick@sfadw.org.

WOMEN'S CANCER SUPPORT GROUP

We would like to invite Women, who are in active treatment with Cancer, to a Christian support group. Our first meeting will be Sunday, February 26 at 12:30 in the Assisi Room in the Rectory. Please email Doreen Dyer at doreendyer@yahoo.com to let us know if you can attend. We will make this a supportive and uplifting experience as we support each other through these times with God's guidance and prayer. We plan to meet on the last Sunday of each month at 12:30. We will use the book, Fighting Cancer with the Help of your Catholic Faith, by Lorene Hanley Duquin.

OLD PALMS

We will be collecting old palms through **Sunday, February 19**. Please place your palms in the Palm Collection Box in the Gathering Space.



2022-23 RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CLASSES

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 today Sunday, February 5 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.

FIRST EUCHARIST PARENT MEETING: WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 8

There will be a First Eucharist Parent Meeting on Wednesday, February 8, at 7:30 pm in the Parish Center for those who have registered their children for First Eucharist preparation this year. If you have questions, please call the Religious Education Office, 301-258-9193.

PARENT MEETING FOR HOMESCHOOL OPTION RE

The Online Parent Meeting: Lent/Unit 4 Overview for families sharing in this year's homeschool religious education program will be from 1-2 pm on Sunday, February 12. Families registered for the Homeschool option will receive an email with link to join.

SAVE THE DATE FOR VACATION BIBLE CAMP: JUNE 26-30

St. Francis of Assisi Church invites children from age 4 to those who will complete the 5th Grade in June 2023 to join us at Vacation Bible Camp, June 26-30. Program details will be announced later 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 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.



ST. FRANCIS YOUTH GROUP

Regular updates on upcoming Youth Group activities will be posted in the Youth Ministry Flocknotes as well as in the bulletin and the parish calendar. Questions? Send an email to sfayouth@sfadw.org or phone the rectory at 301-840-1407 for more information.

FEBRUARY

- 12 Souper Bowl of Caring & Watch Party
(See bulletin insert)
- 26 Youth Group CRS Social Justice

MARCH

- 12 Youth Group
- 26 Youth Group

*Watch the bulletin or upcoming Flocknotes
for additional details!*

Spotlight on St. Jude Regional Catholic School

We are...St. Jude

www.StJudeRockville.org

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

At our All-School Mass last Friday, January 20th, our 2nd graders completed their **Rite of Enrollment** in their preparation for the Sacraments of Reconciliation and First Communion! The children participated in the readings and Presentation of the Gifts, and received a Bible and a blessing from Fr. Bob. Pray for our 2nd graders as they continue their Catholic journey of faith! May God bless their parents as they support and guide their children on this journey!

St. Jude families, teachers and friends gathered to honor our students at this year's Academic and Character Awards ceremony this Friday, January 27th! Congratulations to our Christian Character awardees, nominated "for emulating the characteristics of the saints/apostles/gospel: showing love for classmates by being kind, praying reverently, using manners, striving to always do their best, and showing a love for God with their words and actions." Thank you to everyone who helped with this event! Abel Negatu | Belen Tessema | Natalie Lava | David Palank | Isabella Oakley | Yuri Vieira Menezes | Caitlin Hauser | Vedica Bhanot | Maya Tesfaye | Carolina Romero | Andrew Sanchez Diaz | Sophia Viktoria Mendoza

2023-2024 Archdiocese of Washington Tuition Assistance Program

New families (elementary & middle school only): Application deadline for new families to apply for Archdiocesan tuition assistance is **Saturday, February 18, 2023**. Please note, the new family application deadline date applies only to new families of elementary and middle school. Visit this link for more details! <https://adwcatholicalschools.org/tuition-assistance/archdiocesan-tuition-assistance-program/>

Defend the BOOST Scholarship Program for Our Kids!

This is a special call to action to defend the BOOST Scholarship Program and ensure it is funded for next year and for future students. Please take a minute now to make your voice heard. Visit this link for more information and to send your email to state legislators today! <https://p2a.co/q36ngM4> Thank you!

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).

LEND YOUR ITALIAN ARTIFACTS, COOKWARE, & MAPS TO DECORATE VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION EVENT

Do you have any maps of Italy, Italian artifacts or cookware, or old photos of Italian family members you could part with for a few days? If so, consider loaning them to the parish for use as decoration at the upcoming Adult Volunteer Appreciation Dinner and Dance on Saturday, February 11, in the Parish Center. Please drop off any items before noon Friday, February 10, to the Parish Office during regular business hours of 8 am-4 pm Monday through Friday. For more information, please call Special Events Ministry Coordinator Sylvia Jones at (240) 755-2247 or the Parish Office at (301) 840-1407.

SAVE THE DATE FOR THE HOOPS FOR HAITI CONTEST

Hoops for Haiti is back! Please save the date on Saturday, March 11, for this beloved basketball contest that will pit our young people against the adults on the court to raise funds for seminarians in the Grand'Anse region of Haiti. Organizers are planning a return of the 3-on-3 Tournament before the big game, so families, ministries, and other groups are encouraged to sign up. Tickets to the event, scheduled at Our Lady of Good Counsel School in Olney, will be sold in early - to mid-February. For more information, please contact either Haiti Ministry Coordinator Dan Cardile at dancardile@yahoo.com or parishioner Wendel Hall at wendel@halllawoffice.net.

ENCOURAGE MINISTRY

EnCourage is a ministry dedicated to the spiritual needs of parents, siblings, children, and other relatives and friends of persons who have same-sex attractions. Standing by the true teaching of the Catholic Church, EnCourage members support one another and their loved ones through discussion, prayer, and fellowship. Please contact Fr. John for more information at 301-840-1407 or email him at jdillon@sfdw.org.

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.



ST. MARTIN'S FOOD PANTRY SHORTAGES

Canned Fruit
Pasta
Pasta Sauce
Dry Unsweetened Cereal
Canned Beans (Black, Kidney)
Meals in a can (stew, canned pasta, chili
Macaroni & Cheese

Baby Formula: Similac Blue & Similac Orange, and/or domestic or foreign equivalents/substitutes.
Diapers: Sizes 2 & 5
Pediasure

Ensure for Adults
Adult Unisex Pullups—Medium & Large

Paper Bags (Trader Joe size or similar).
Plastic Newspaper or 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.

Many thanks to everyone who can help us help those in need!

MEN'S DISCERNMENT RETREAT FEBRUARY 10-12, 2023

SAINT JOHN PAUL II SEMINARY & THE WASHINGTON RETREAT HOUSE

The Office of Priest Vocations invites men (ages 18-55) who are interested in learning more about seminary and the priesthood, to attend the 2023 Men's Discernment Retreat. This is an opportunity to pray and reflect on God's call, meet priests and seminarians, and hear their stories. Please register at <https://dcpriest.org/2023-mens-discernment-retreat>. For additional information, contact Fr. Mark Ivany, Director of Priest Vocations at 202-636-9020 or vocations@adw.org.

IN HONOR OF OUR LADY OF FATIMA

The World Apostolate of Fatima, Archdiocese of Washington Division "The Blue Army" invites you to **Rosary, Mass, Confession, Divine Mercy Chaplet, and healing prayers. Monday, February 13 at 1:00pm** in the Immaculate Heart of Mary Chapel, Basilica of the National Shrine, Michigan Ave, DC. For more information call 301-595-1770

Anuncios del boletín del 4 y 5 de febrero de 2023:

Regístrese en la Red Católica de Defensa

Con la Asamblea General de Maryland en sesión por poco más de tres semanas, los legisladores estatales ya han presentado aproximadamente 500 proyectos de ley que afectan las vidas de los residentes de nuestro estado. La Conferencia Católica de Maryland, que es la voz de política pública para los católicos en Maryland, rastrea la legislación importante para los católicos y envía alertas de acción invitando a los católicos a opinar sobre los proyectos de ley de interés. Estos podrían incluir la legislación propuesta sobre el suicidio asistido por un médico, la consagración del aborto en la constitución del estado y la disminución de la financiación de becas que permiten a los niños de hogares de ingresos limitados asistir a escuelas católicas. Regístrese en la Red de Defensa Católica para recibir las alertas de acción en <https://p2a.co/DaVleF4>.

En otras noticias, la Conferencia Católica de Maryland organizará una discusión en vivo sobre cómo frenar la violencia armada a las 6:30 pm del lunes 13 de febrero, con el arzobispo de Baltimore, William Lori, y líderes legislativos estatales; se compartirán más detalles. El Día virtual de la Defensa Católica 2023 también se llevará a cabo el miércoles 15 de febrero. Para obtener más información sobre temas de defensa católica, comuníquese con el Director de Asuntos Sociales y Formación en la Fe de Adultos, Tony Bosnick, en abosnick@sfadw.org.

Preste sus artefactos, utensilios de cocina y mapas italianos para decorar el evento de agradecimiento a los voluntarios

¿Tiene algún mapa de Italia, artefactos italianos o utensilios de cocina, o fotos antiguas de miembros de familia italiana de los que podría separarse por unos días? Si es así, considere prestarlos a la parroquia para usarlos como decoración en la próxima Cena y Baile de Agradecimiento a los Voluntarios Adultos el sábado 11 de febrero, en el Centro Parroquial. Por favor, deje cualquier artículo antes del mediodía del viernes 10 de febrero, en la Oficina Parroquial durante el horario comercial regular de 8 a.m. a 4 p.m. de lunes a viernes. Para obtener más información, llame a la Coordinadora del Ministerio de Eventos Especiales Sylvia Jones al (240) 755-2247 o a la Oficina Parroquial al (301) 840-1407.

La Directora Ejecutiva del Centro de Embarazo Shady Grove expresa su agradecimiento

La Directora Ejecutiva del Centro de Embarazo Shady Grove, Kathleen García, recientemente envió una carta de agradecimiento al P. John Dillon, expresando la gratitud de su organización por los \$ 1,084.15 que los feligreses donaron durante su Campaña de Biberones. La donación financiera ayuda a la organización sin fines de lucro a brindar a las mujeres la esperanza que necesitan para elegir la vida de sus bebés; apoya a las familias con los servicios necesarios; y ayuda a demostrar el amor de Cristo en la comunidad. "Le agradecemos sinceramente por su campaña", escribió García en la carta fechada el 14 de diciembre. Para obtener más información sobre el embarazo de Shady Grove o la campaña de biberones, comuníquese con el Director de Asuntos Sociales y Formación de Fe para Adultos, Tony Bosnick, en abosnick@sfadw.org.

Retiro de Fin de Semana de Discernimiento para Hombres

Febrero 10–12, 2023 • Seminario San Juan Pablo II y Casa de Retiros de Washington

La Oficina de Vocaciones Sacerdotales invita a los hombres (de 18 a 55 años) que estén interesados en aprender más sobre el seminario y el sacerdocio, a asistir al Retiro de discernimiento para hombres este 2023. Esta es una oportunidad para orar y reflexionar sobre el llamado de Dios, conocer sacerdotes y seminaristas y escuchar sus historias. Regístrese en <https://dcpriest.org/2023-mens-discernment-retreat>.

Para más información, se puede contactar al Padre Mark Ivany, Director de Vocaciones Sacerdotales, 202-636-9020 vocations@adw.org

Reserve la fecha para el concurso Canastas por Haití

¡Canastas por Haití está de vuelta! Por favor, reserve la fecha el sábado 11 de marzo para este apreciado concurso de baloncesto que enfrentará a nuestros jóvenes contra los adultos en la cancha para recaudar fondos para los seminaristas en la región de Grand'Anse en Haití. Los organizadores están planeando un regreso del Torneo 3 contra 3 antes del gran juego, por lo que se alienta a las familias, ministerios y otros grupos a inscribirse. Los boletos para el evento, programado tentativamente en la Escuela Nuestra Señora del Buen Consejo en Olney, se venderán a principios o mediados de febrero. Para obtener más información, comuníquese con el Coordinador del Ministerio de Haití, Dan Cardile, en su email dancardile@yahoo.com o con el feligrés Wendel Hall en wendel@halllaoffice.net.

PALMAS VIEJAS

Estaremos recolectando palmas viejas hasta el domingo 19 de febrero. Coloque sus palmas en la caja de recolección de palmas en el espacio de reunión.