ST FRANCIS OF ASSISI, DERWOOD



March 13 - March 19, 2023

Monday, 3/13	9:00 a.m.	Jerry & Virginia Haley
Tuesday, 3/14	9:00 a.m.	Don Smith
Wednesday, 3/15	9:00 a.m.	Reverend Everett Pearson
	7:30 p.m.	Fr. John Rizzato
Thursday, 3/16	9:00 a.m.	Gaby O'Connor
Friday, 3/17	9:00 a.m.	Joseph Mastronardi
Saturday, 3/18	5:00 p.m.	Stella Battista
Sunday, 3/19	8:00 a.m.	Gerry Madden
	9:30 a.m.	Pro populo
	11:15 a.m.	Mary Becker
	1:00 p.m.	Aley Kutty P.J.
	5:00 p.m.	Cheng Mark Fu

In Memoriam Aeternam +

In your charity, please pray for the repose of the souls of Edward Schneider, Robert J. Barbour, step-brother of Bishop Roy Campbell.

Please pray for the sick...Jane Tseronis, John Guild, Thomas Hudecheck, Stella Lynne Tkaczyk, Diane Chapa, George Mastronardi, Rick Neimiller, Alicia Church, Christine Vilgos-Mitchell, 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 March 12, 2023

Ex 17:3-7/Ps 95:1-2, 6-7, 8-9 (8)/Rom 5:1-2, Sunday:

5-8/Jn 4:5-42 or4:5-15, 19b-26, 39a, 40-42

Monday: 2 Kgs 5:1-15ab/Ps 42:2, 3; 43:3, 4/

Lk 4:24-30

Tuesday: Dn 3:25, 34-43/Ps 25:4-5ab, 6 and 7bc, 8-9/

Mt 18:21-35

Dt 4:1, 5-9/Ps 147:12-13, 15-16, 19-20/ Wednesday:

Mt 5:17-19

Thursday: Jer 7:23-28/Ps 95:1-2, 6-7, 8-9/Lk 11:14-23 Friday:

Hos 14:2-10/Ps 81:6c-8a, 8bc-9, 10-11ab, 14

and 17/Mk 12:28-34

Saturday: Hos 6:1-6/Ps 51:3-4, 18-19, 20-21ab/

Lk 18:9-14

1 Sm 16:1b, 6-7, 10-13a/Ps 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, Next Sunday:

6(1)/Eph 5:8–14/ Jn 9:1-41 or 9:1, 6-9,

13-17, 34-3

THE MUSINGS OF THE PASTOR

In June 2010 the late Pope Benedict XVI devoted three Wednesday Angelus addresses on St. Thomas Aquinas. He recalls an observation from St. John Paul II: "the Church has been justified in consistently proposing St. Thomas as master of thought and a model of right way to do theology" (Fides et Ratio, n. 43). Pope Benedict pointed out St. Thomas Aquinas is cited at least sixty-one times in the Catechism of the Catholic Church. The only ecclesiastical writer who is cited more often is St. Augustine.

Thomas was born between 1224 and 1225 in the castle that his wealthy noble family owned at Roccasecca near Aquino, not far from the famous Abbey of Montecassino where his parents sent him to receive the first elements of his education. A few years later he moved to Naples, then the Kingdom of Sicily, where Frederick II had founded a prestigious university where the thinking of the Greek philosophy of Aristotle was taught without the limitations imposed elsewhere. Thomas was introduced to Aristotle's philosophy and immediately recognized its value. While he was studying in Naples, Thomas got to know the Dominicans. His family was furious when they learned that he planned to join the Dominicans. The family plan was that Thomas was going to enter the Benedictines at Montecassino and eventually become the Abbot there. He was obliged to leave the convent and spent some time at home.

In 1245, by which time he had come of age, he was able to continue on the path of his response to God's call. He was sent to Paris to study theology under the guidance of another saint, Albert the Great. They learned to esteem and to love each other to the point that Albert even wanted his disciple to follow him to Cologne, where Albert had been sent by the Superiors of the Order to found a theological *stadium*. Thomas then once again came into contact with all Aristotle's works and his Arab commentators that Albert described and explained.

Thomas Aguinas, at the school of Albert the Great, did something of fundamental importance for the history of philosophy and theology. Thomas made a thorough study of Aristotle and his interpreters, obtaining for himself new Latin translations of the original Greek texts. As a result Thomas no longer relied solely on the Arab commentators but was able to read the original texts for himself. Thomas showed that a natural harmony exists between Christian faith and reason. This was a great achievement of Thomas who showed that faith and reason go hand in hand at a time when it seemed the faith would have to give in to reason. Thomas created a new synthesis which formed the culture of the centuries to come.

Because of his excellent intellectual gifts Thomas was summoned to Paris to be professor of theology on the Dominican chair. Here he began his literary production which continued until his death. Thomas did not stay long or permanently in Paris. In 1259 he took part in the General Chapter of the Dominicans in Valenciennes where he was a member of a commission that established the Order's program of studies.

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

March 12, 2023

QUESTION OF THE WEEK

What can I do or say that will show others the living water that I have found in Jesus, the water that satisfies my spiritual thirst? Will I make that my mission this week?

LENTEN REMINDERS

Stations of the Cross (Spanish) Friday 6:00 p.m. Stations of the Cross (English) Friday 7:00 p.m.

Confession: In addition to Saturday afternoon (3:30-4:30 p.m.), Confessions will be heard each **Thursday evening** during Lent 7:30-9:30 p.m. in the Rectory Chapel.

Parish Penance Service:

Monday, March 20 7:00 p.m.

THE MUSINGS OF THE PASTOR (continued)

From 1261 to 1265, Thomas was at Orvieto. Pope Urban IV, who held him in high esteem, commissioned him to write liturgical texts for the Solemnity of Corpus Christi. In 1269 Thomas was recalled to Paris for a second set of lectures. Although his interpretation of Aristotle was not accepted by all, even his adversaries admitted that his teaching on the subject was superior to that of others working in the field and indeed served as a corrective for the dubious interpretations of others teaching on Aristotle's philosophy at the time. His Dominican Superiors then reassigned him to Naples to be available to King Charles I who was planning to reorganize university studies there.

The last months of Thomas's earthly life remain surrounded by a mysterious atmosphere. In December 1273, he summoned his friend and secretary Brother Reginald to inform Reginald of his decision to discontinue all work because he had realized, during celebration of Mass subsequent to a supernatural revelation, that everything he had written until then "was worthless." A few months later Thomas died while on his way to Lyons to take part in the Ecumenical Council convoked by Pope Gregory X.

Pope Benedict XVI says that the life and teaching of St. Thomas Aquinas could be summed up in an episode passed down by his ancient biographers. When Thomas was praying before the Crucifix in the early morning in the chapel of St. Nicholas in Naples, the church sacristan overheard a conversation. Thomas was anxiously asking whether what he had written on the mysteries of the Christian faith was correct. And the Crucified One answered him: "You have spoken well of me, Thomas. What is your reward to be?" Pope Benedict states that the answer Thomas gave him was what we too, friends and disciples of Jesus, always want to tell him: "Nothing but Yourself, Lord!"

Thomas Aquinas was canonized in 1323 and named a Doctor of the Church in 1568.

Until next week.

Fr. John

WELCOME to the Family of Christ!

The following individuals and their families recently joined our St. Francis faith community during the month of February:

William Amaguana
Andres Araujo & Yany Germosen
Richard & Virginia Benitez
Frank & Mary Bennett
Frances Hudson
Kevin & Rita Murphy
Edwin & Rosemarie Pingca
Andrea Reyes
Juan & Maria Rivera
My-Linh Thack
Ricardo & Rufina Velazquez
Teresa Velazquez
Jose & Beyra Villalta
Jack & Laurice Wang

The following children were baptized during the month of February:

Avery Michael Leisher Natalie Suzanne O'Brien

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL LEARNS ABOUT FACILITY REPAIRS AND STAFF CHANGES

At its meeting on February 23, the Parish Pastoral Council learned that Fr. John Dillon and the Finance Council are considering five bids to repair the church parking lots, some of which are severely cracked. With three council members in attendance, the consultative body to the pastor also learned that the parish received a financial gift that has cushioned the parish's financial state in the first month of the calendar year.

The council also heard reports, stating:

- Youth Minister Travis Tomon has tendered his resignation with the parish effective February 25, but still plans to volunteer in the ministry. For the time being, Fr. John will coordinate the ministry, with a fourmember parent team.
- The archdiocese is inviting priests, religious and the Catholic faithful to take part in the National Black Catholic Congress XIII on July 20-23 at the Gaylord National Resort in National Harbor.
- The parish signed a contract to have the Hoops for Haiti fundraiser on March 11 at Our Lady of Good Counsel High School in Olney.
- The Knights of Columbus Council 2323 raised nearly \$3,000 at its spaghetti dinner, benefitting the Haiti Medical Mission. It will host its Lenten fish dinners on March 3, 17, and 31 at the Father Cuddy Hall in Derwood to benefit various charities. It is also helping raise \$14,000 to help buy a new sonogram machine for the Shady Grove Pregnancy Center.

To read past minutes of the Parish Pastoral Council meetings, please see them at https://www.sfadw.org/pastoral-council-meeting-minutes. For more information, please contact Fr. John at (301) 840-1407.



2022-23 RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CLASSES

CONFIRMATION RETREAT: SATURDAY, MARCH 18

Confirmation Candidates are reminded that our Confirmation Retreat will be on Saturday, March 18, beginning in the Parish Center at 10:00 am and concluding with 5:00 pm Mass. Parents are asked to attend the 5:00 pm Mass with the Confirmation Candidates.

FAMILY STATIONS OF THE CROSS VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

A special Stations of the Cross for children and families will be held in the Church on Good Friday, April 7 at 1:30 pm. The stations are an excellent way for families to honor Jesus on this special and solemn day in a way that children of all ages can understand. Children & Teens (Kindergarten – Grade 8) are invited to volunteer as readers and prayer leaders. No rehearsal is required. Instructions and material are provided ahead of time so children can practice reading at home. To volunteer as a reader, please contact the Religious Education Office at sfareligioused@sfadw.org, or 301-258-9193.

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.



FROM FARMING TO FISHING Raul and Rhodora were coconut farmers in their town in the Philippines, but it took a lot of work before they made money. They participated in a Catholic Relief Services program that helped them build their own fishpond to raise and sell fish. The fish provide nutritious food for their family and more accessible income, enabling Raul and Rhodora's granddaughters to attend school. What changes have you made in your professional, personal or spiritual life that have benefited others? Visit crsricebowl.org to learn more.

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.

MARCH

12 Youth Group26 Youth Group

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

www.StJudeRockville.org http://www.facebook.com/stjuderockvillemd

SJRCS OPEN HOUSE

Visit us during our Open House on *Tuesday, March 21st* from 6:00pm - 8:00pm, where students and parents get to meet the teachers, look at the books, and check out the classrooms. For more information, contact Ellen.Donnelly@stjuderockville.org

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!

PRE-K OPEN HOUSE FOR FALL 2023-24 MOTHER OF GOD SCHOOL March 23, 6:00-8:00 p.m. Pre-K 3's & 4's/K-8th Grade

20501 Goshen Road, Gaithersburg MOGSCHOOL.COM MOG@MOGSCHOOL.COM

SHADY GROVE PREGNANCY CENTER ULTRASOUND MODELS NEEDED!

Are you pregnant? Thinking of becoming pregnant? Please join us for a free ultrasound during our week of Nurse Sonographer Training, March 27-31. We need women who are not pregnant, and pregnant women at every stage for a limited OB/GYN ultrasound. Note this is not a diagnostic sonogram to rule out pregnancy complications. You will receive a picture of your ultrasound and be entered into our raffle for an awesome gift basket! Call 301-963-6223 to sign-up.

LENTEN FOOD DRIVE BEGINS NEXT WEEK

With hunger an ever-present reality in our community, local food pantries are experiencing a great demand for food. To help replenish supplies, Catholic Charities and the Archdiocese of Washington together are again sponsoring the Annual Lenten Food Drive.

On March 18/19, St. Francis of Assisi Parish will begin collecting food to be donated to St. Martin's Food Pantry through Sunday, March 26. Donations can be brought to the church or rectory porch anytime during that week.



Come join the Knights from 6-8 pm Friday, March 17, as they host their second Lenten fish dinner and celebrate an "Irish Night." Join us for a sit-down dinner or carry out at Father Cuddy Hall, 17001 Overhill Road in Derwood. Tickets at the door will be \$15 for adults and \$7 for children ages 6 and under.

Dinner includes salmon and shrimp scampi, fresh vegetables, roll and dessert with beer, wine, soda, and coffee included. The children's menu includes fish sticks, buttered noodles, fresh vegetables, roll, dessert and beverage. This event will support The KofC Sonogram Program & Shady Grove Pregnancy Center. Prepayment for Dinners or Online Donations via credit card is available under the News & Announcement Tab of the KofC Montgomery Council Website: https://uknight.org/CouncilSite/index.asp?CNO=2323

For more information, contact Steve Willer at saw.kofc.fs2323@gmail.com or (202) 809-6784 – texts accepted. Follow us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/ kofc2323 .

"Sit down Dinner or Carry out Available"

Mark your calendar: Final Lenten Fish Dinner: March 31st

HEAR THE MASS ORDINARY AT THE MUSIC CENTER AT STRATHMORE ON MARCH 18

Catholics can savor the beauty of the Latin Mass' music when the National Philharmonic Chorale and Orchestra performs Johann Sebastian Bach's Great Mass in B Minor at 8 pm Saturday, March 18, at The Music Center at Strathmore in North Bethesda. The work composes the texts that remain the same for every Mass, including the Kyrie, Gloria, Credo, and Sanctus. Comprised of 17 choruses, three duets and six arias, it is literally Bach's summation of his life's work. Tickets range in price from \$19-\$99; buy tickets at https://nationalphilharmonic.org/event/bach-mass.

NEW LENTEN PRAYER OPPORTUNITY, SPEAKER ADDED

As we reach the halfway point of Lent, the parish is offering a couple other ways to pray and reflect during this season of renewal.

- Please take a tag off the tree in the Gathering Space and pray for one of our archdiocesan seminarians. As these young men continue pursuing their vocations as priests, let us support them in their education and formation with prayer.
- A fourth speaker has been added to our Lenten series of talks. At 7:30 pm Friday, March 24, Cheryl Kerwin, a member of the Mattie J.T. Stepanek Guild, will speak to our parish about the life of this young poet and author and how he walked with the Lord before his death in 2004. Please join us in the church!

To read about out other Lenten events, services, and prayer opportunities, please go to https://www.sfadw.org/lentandeaster2023 or https://www.sfadw.org/la-cuaresma.

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 Food: Numbers 1 & 2.

Diapers: Size 1 Pediasure

Glucerna

Adult Unisex Pullups - Small, 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!

ONE-DAY RETREAT FOR HIGH SCHOOL-AGED GIRLS TAKES PLACE ON APRIL 29

Is your daughter, niece, or granddaughter open to discerning a religious vocation? St. Mary of the Mills in downtown Laurel is offering a one-day vocations retreat for high school-aged girls from 8:30 am-4 pm Saturday, April 29 at the church. Open to all girls of high school age who may be interested in the religious life, the retreat will include talks, games, Eucharistic Adoration, Mass, time for reflection, snacks, a Chick-fil-A lunch and more. Cost is \$15 per person; scholarships are also available. If you have any questions, e-mail the Youth Ministry team at St. Mary of the Mills at youth@stmaryofthemills.org or call (301) 725-3080.

BUILDING UP THE KINGDOM OF GOD TOGETHER WITH ALL HIS PEOPLE

Catholics know they are here to serve a purpose, share our gifts, and become a source of life for others. Some of us may be living with a disability, or struggling with mental health challenges, yet we are all a part of the one Body of Christ. At 3 pm Sunday, March 19, join an online discussion with Mary O'Meara, executive director of the Archdiocese of Washington's Deaf and Disabilities Ministries, to explore ways to welcome persons who are Deaf, living with a disability, or are experiencing mental health challenges into our parishes. Sponsored by the Council of Catholic Women-Archdiocese of Washington, the discussion can be registered for at https://www.eventbrite.com/e/560943345647.

****SAVE THE DATES****

ANNUAL YARD SALE APRIL 22

MOTHER'S DAY PLANT SALE MAY 12-MAY 14

Anuncios del boletín del 12 al de marzo de 2023:

Consejo Pastoral Parroquial se informa Sobre Reparaciones de Instalaciones y Cambios de Personal

En su reunión del 23 de febrero, el Consejo Pastoral Parroquial conoció que el P. John Dillon y el Consejo de Finanzas están considerando cinco ofertas para reparar los estacionamientos de la iglesia, algunos de los cuales están severamente agrietados. Con la asistencia de tres miembros del consejo, el organismo consultivo del párroco también se enteró de que la parroquia recibió una donación financiera que amortiguó el estado financiero de la parroquia en el primer mes del año calendario.

El consejo también escuchó informes, declarando:

- El Ministro de la Juventud, Travis Tomon, presentó su renuncia a la parroquia efectiva el 25 de febrero, pero aún planea ser voluntario en el ministerio. Por el momento, el P. John coordinará el ministerio, con un equipo de padres de cuatro miembros.
- La arquidiócesis está invitando a sacerdotes, religiosos y fieles católicos a participar en el XIII Congreso Nacional Católico Negro del 20 al 23 de julio en el Gaylord National Resort en National Harbor.
- La parroquia firmó un contrato para realizar la recaudación de fondos Hoops for Haiti el 11 de marzo en la Escuela Secundaria Our Lady of Good Counsel en Olney.
- El Consejo 2323 de los Caballeros de Colón recaudó casi \$3,000 en su cena de espagueti, a beneficio de la Misión Médica de Haití. Organizará sus cenas de pescado de Cuaresma los días 3, 17 y 31 de marzo en el Father Cuddy Hall en Derwood para beneficiar a varias organizaciones benéficas. También está ayudando a recaudar \$14,000 para ayudar a comprar una nueva máquina de sonograma para el Centro de Embarazo Shady Grove.

Para leer las actas anteriores de las reuniones del Consejo Pastoral Parroquial, por favor véalas en https://www.sfadw.org/pastoral-council-meeting-minutes. Para obtener más información, por favor póngase en contacto con el P. John (301) 840-1407.

Retiro de un día para niñas en edad escolar se llevará a cabo el 29 de abril

¿Está su hija, sobrina ó nieta abierta a discernir una vocación religiosa? St. Mary of the Mills en el centro de Laurel está ofreciendo un retiro vocacional de un día para niñas en edad de escuela secundaria de 8:30 am a 4 pm el sábado, 29 de abril en la iglesia. Está abierto a todas las niñas en edad de escuela secundaria que puedan estar interesadas en la vida religiosa; el retiro incluirá charlas, juegos, Adoración Eucarística, Misa, tiempo de reflexión, refrigerios, un almuerzo de Chick-fil-A y más. El costo es de \$15 por persona; también hay becas disponibles. Si tiene alguna pregunta, envíe un correo electrónico al equipo del Ministerio Juvenil de St. Mary of the Mills a youth@stmaryofthemills.org ó llame al (301) 725-3080.

Edificar el Reino de Dios junto con todo su pueblo

Los católicos saben que están aquí para cumplir un propósito, compartir nuestros dones y convertirse en una fuente de vida para los demás. Algunos de nosotros podemos estar viviendo con una discapacidad ó luchando con problemas de salud mental, pero todos somos parte de un sólo Cuerpo de Cristo. A las 3 p. m. del domingo, 19 de marzo, únase a una discusión en línea con Mary O'Meara, directora ejecutiva de los Ministerios de Sordos y Discapacidades de la Arquidiócesis de Washington, para explorar formas de dar la bienvenida a las personas sordas, que viven con una discapacidad ó que están experimentando desafíos de salud mental en nuestras parroquias. Patrocinado por el Consejo de Mujeres Católicas-Arquidiócesis de Washington, se puede registrar para la discusión en https://www.eventbrite.com/e/560943345647.

Escuche la Misa Ordinaria en The Music Center en Strathmore el 18 de marzo

Los católicos pueden saborear la belleza de la música de la Misa en latín cuando el Coro y la Orquesta de la Filarmónica Nacional interpreten la Gran Misa en B Menor de Johann Sebastian Bach a las 8 p. m. el sábado, 18 de marzo en The Music Center at Strathmore en North Bethesda. La obra compone los textos que siguen siendo los mismos para cada Misa, incluidos el Kyrie, el Gloria, el Credo y el Sanctus. Compuesto por 17 coros, tres dúos y seis arias, es literalmente el resumen de Bach del trabajo de su vida. Los boletos varían en precio desde \$19-\$99; compre boletos en https://nationalphilharmonic.org/event/bach-mass.



ÚNASE AL CONSEJO 2323 DE LOS CABALLEROS DE COLÓN DE MONTGOMERY, PARA LA CENA DE PESCADO DE CUARESMA 17 de marzo – NOCHE IRLANDESA

Únase a los Caballeros de 6 a 8 p. m. el viernes 17 de marzo, m ientras ofrecen su segunda cena de pescado de Cuaresma y celebran una "Noche Irlandesa". Únase a nosotros para una cena servida en la mesa ó una cena para llevar en Father Cuddy Hall, 17001 Overhill Road en Derwood. Los boletos en la puerta costarán \$15 para adultos y \$7 para niños menores de 6 años.

La cena incluye salmón y camarones al ajillo, vegetales frescos, panecillo y postre con cerveza, vino, refresco y café incluidos. El menú infantil incluye palitos de pescado, fideos con mantequilla, vegetales frescos, panecillo, postre y bebida. Este evento apoyará el Programa de Sonogramas de KofC y el Centro de Embarazo Shady Grove. El prepago para las cenas ó donaciones en línea mediante tarjeta de crédito está disponible bajo la pestaña Noticias y anuncios del sitio web del Consejo de KofC Montgomery: https://uknight.org/CouncilSite/index.asp?CNO=2323

Para obtener más información, comuníquese con Steve Willer en saw.kofc.fs2323@gmail.com ó (202) 809-6784; se aceptan textos. Síganos en Facebook en www.facebook.com/kofc2323.

"Cena servida en la mesa ó para llevar estan disponibles"