

Mass Intentions

September 18 - September 24, 2023

Monday, 9/18	9:00 a.m.	James Harrington
Tuesday, 9/19	9:00 a.m.	Fran Bruggermann
Wednesday, 9/20	9:00 a.m.	Edward O' Sullivan
	7:30 p.m.	Reverend George Wilkinson
Thursday, 9/21	9:00 a.m.	Nida Saavedra & Family (L)
Friday, 9/22	9:00 a.m.	Serge Triau
Saturday, 9/23	5:00 p.m.	Patsy & Stella Battista
Sunday, 9/24	8:00 a.m.	Maria Dulce Calabia
	9:30 a.m.	Poor Souls in Purgatory
	11:15 a.m.	Eva Leitiza Breedon
	1:00 p.m.	Ann Moriarity
	5:00 p.m.	<i>Pro populo</i>

In Memoriam Aeternam +

In your charity, please pray for the repose of the soul of Mary Jo Kemp, wife of the late Deacon William Kemp.

Please pray for the sick... Andre Polissedjian, Joan Misko, Mark Lynch, Christine Degen, Anna Calabia, Maria De Los Angeles Concepcion, Caramia Caballero-Calabia, Nicole Behrus-Weiss, Maryann Murphy, Mark Patterson, Michael Waple, Sophia Jusko, Debra Price, Barbara Schmidt, Angelica Santos, Allison Brauer, Frank Knorr, Allan Degen, Bob Jones, Sandra Kimball, Ed Dudenhoefter, 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 September 17, 2023

Sunday:	Sir 27:30—28:7/Ps 103:1-2, 3-4, 9-10, 11-12 (8)/Rom 14:7-9/Mt 18:21-35
Monday:	1 Tm 2:1-8/Ps 28:2, 7, 8-9/Lk 7:1-10
Tuesday:	1 Tm 3:1-13/Ps 101:1b-2ab, 2cd-3ab, 5, 6/Lk 7:11-17
Wednesday:	1 Tm 3:14-16/Ps 111:1-2, 3-4, 5-6/Lk 7:31-35
Thursday:	Eph 4:1-7, 11-13/Ps 19:2-3, 4-5/Mt 9:9-13
Friday:	1 Tm 6:2c-12/Ps 49:6-7, 8-10, 17-18, 19-20/Lk 8:1-3
Saturday:	1 Tm 6:13-16/Ps 100:1b-2, 3, 4, 5/Lk 8:4-15
Next Sunday:	Is 55:6-9/Ps 145:2-3, 8-9, 17-18 (18a)/Phil 1:20c-24, 27a/Mt 20:1-16

THE MUSINGS OF THE PASTOR

Last Sunday Marcello Cardinal Semeraro, the prefect of the Dicastery for the Causes of Saints, travelled to the village of Markowa, in southwestern Poland to preside at the beatification of an entire family: Józef and Wiktoria Ulma and their seven children. They were murdered because they had practiced the corporal work of mercy of sheltering the homeless.

This story begins in the winter of 1942. At that time Germany military and police were operating on Polish territory, and according to their decrees, any form of help or contact with Jews was punishable by death. That winter Józef and Wiktoria provided shelter for eight Jews in the attic of their home in Markowa. After the Ulma family was denounced by a policeman on March 24, 1944, they and the eight Jews that they hid were killed. Israel's Yad Vashem Institute in 1995 recognized the Ulmas as Righteous Among Nations who gave their lives trying to save Jews during the holocaust.

The story became better known in Poland and worldwide when the Archdiocese of Przemyśl initiated in 2003 a sainthood process for the family. The process really took off when Pope Francis approved a decree on the martyrdom of the Ulma family on December 17, 2002. This opened up a path for their beatification.

A challenge in all this was the fact that Wiktoria was in the final stages of pregnancy for her seventh child and had actually started to deliver the baby when the Nazi military police arrived and began killing everyone living on the farm. The Church faced a dilemma in baptizing Wiktoria's unborn child and declaring it a martyr because it had not been baptized. The Vatican's Dicastery for the Causes of Saints issued a clarification saying that the child was actually born during the horror of the killings and received "baptism by blood" of its martyred mother.

About 35,000 people were expected to attend the beatification ceremony yesterday. That provided some logistical challenges for the farming village of Markowa that normally has about 4,500 people. Polish clergy and government officials and Poland's head Rabbi Michael Schudrich were in attendance at the beatification ceremony.

In an interview with Vatican News Rabbi Schudrich said that he considered Józef and Wiktoria to be "mentors." In that interview he noted the following: "We ask ourselves, what does God want from us? How do we know that we should do? Of course, we have many verses in the Bible that are clear. But it is very helpful to see someone who lives the way God wants us to live."

In St. Peter's Square last week Pope Francis praised the new blessed as "an entire family exterminated by the Nazis on 24 March 1944 for having given shelter to some persecuted Jews." Pope Francis continued:

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

QUESTION OF THE WEEK

How do I see myself letting resentment or bitterness build up in my heart? Who do I need to reach out to and forgive?

RCIA PROGRAM STARTS SEPTEMBER 20

On Wednesday, September 20, our parish's Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults program will commence. If you or someone you know is ready to meet Jesus and journey with him as a Catholic, then RCIA may be for you. For more information, please contact Director of Adult Faith Formation Tony Bosnick at abosnick@sfadw.org. Spanish speakers are encouraged to contact Deacon Will Garcia at wagarcia@comcast.net.

SATURDAY MORNING SPIRITUAL READING GROUP

Our Spiritual Reading Group will be reading Bishop Barron's Book: **VIBRANT PARADOXES The Both/And of Catholicism**. We meet in the Kuehner Room at 8:00 a.m. on Saturday mornings and plan to start this next Book on September 23rd. Join us for a relaxing and stimulating time. Please email Trish Olin for a Book and more information or just come and enjoy! mpolin@comcast.net or 240-355-5753

WALKING WITH PURPOSE BIBLE STUDY COURSE FOR WOMEN STARTING NEXT WEEK

Women of our parish, would you like to join a Bible study course this fall? Walking with Purpose provides materials aligned with Church teaching that are targeted to women and their experiences. Two separate courses will start next week – one, on Monday afternoons and one, on Thursday mornings. Please come to the open houses at 4:45 pm Monday, September 18, in the Parish Center or at 10:15 am Thursday, September 21, in the Kuehner Room to learn more and register. For more information, contact Eileen Grams at ehgrams@yahoo.com or Lita Silva at litasilva4@gmail.com.

THE MUSINGS OF THE PASTOR (continued)

"They opposed the hatred and violence that characterized that time with evangelical love. May this Polish family, which represents a ray of light in the darkness of the Second World War, be for all of us a model to imitate in the zeal for goodness and service to those in need."

Pope Francis went on to urge Christians to follow the example of the Ulma family by "opposing strength of arms with charity and violent rhetoric with tenacious prayer."

Blessed Józef, Wiktoria, Stanisława, Barbara, Władysław, Franciszek, Antoni, Maria, and Baby Ulma, pray for us!

Until next week,
Fr. John



ST. FRANCIS PARISH PICNIC BLESSING OF ANIMALS

RSVP NOW TO ATTEND

On Sunday, October 8, St. Francis of Assisi Parish will celebrate our Feast Day with our annual Parish Picnic from 12:30-4 pm on the parish grounds. Come out for a delicious meal catered by Simply Fresh, games, crafts, a Moonbounce, and an ice cream cart. The Blessing of the Animals will take place at 3 pm in front of the church.

In conjunction with the Parish Picnic, we will also celebrate the one-year anniversary of our Mass in Spanish at the 1 pm Mass that day in the church. Having launched October 2, 2022, the Mass in Spanish regularly draws 130 worshippers weekly.

Please RSVP for the Parish Picnic using the Flocknote link in Fr. John's bi-weekly Flocknote messages. You may also RSVP at the Picnic Table in the Gathering Space. For more information or to volunteer, please contact Special Events Ministry Coordinator Sylvia Jones at decaffqueen@gmail.com.

LAST WEEKEND TO PURCHASE TICKETS FOR KOC STATE COUNCIL RAFFLE

This weekend, September 16 and 17, is the final weekend to buy tickets for the Knights of Columbus' Maryland State Council Annual Cash Incentive Raffle after all Masses in the Gathering Space. Tickets are \$1 each, with Montgomery Council 2323 receiving 60 cents for each ticket sold. The council's raffle proceeds will benefit various Council activities, including the Pope John Paul II Seminars and the Coats for Kids program. Please support these worthy causes.

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 Church, especially the Eucharist.

2023-24 RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROGRAM FOR KINDERGARTEN THROUGH GRADE 8 STARTS SOON!

Program calendars are posted on the parish website and have also been mailed to all who have registered.

We look forward to welcoming families as classes begin this week:

“Classroom model” offering in-person classes taught by volunteer catechists and classroom aides:

- **Elementary (Kindergarten-Grade 5)** classes offered at two session times: Sunday 9:20-10:35 am and Monday 4:45-6:00 pm. Classes begin September 17 and 18.
- **Middle School (Grade 6, 7 & 8)** classes offered at two session times: Monday 6:45-8:00 pm and Tuesday 6:45-8:00 pm. Classes begin September 18 and 19.
- **Classes for children and youth with special needs** meeting on Sunday afternoons 3:30-4:30 pm. Classes start on September 24.

“Homeschool model” offering parents the opportunity to teach their children at home with textbook resources and support provided by the parish, including online parent meetings and additional events (in-person and online) for students and families. Materials are ready for pick up starting today, September 10. The first online session for parents will be on September 17. The link to join will be sent to families registered for Homeschool RE.

It is not too late to register for this year’s Religious Education program!

Children are welcome to start classes once registration is received and processed. Registration forms can be found on the parish website at <https://sfadw.org/children-grades-pre-k-8>, in the Church Gathering Space, and in the Parish Office. Completed forms can be mailed to the parish, dropped off in person at the Rectory Office (Monday-Friday, 8 am-4 pm), or returned as digital copies via email to sfareligioused@sfadw.org.

Registration fee: \$125.00 per child

Family discounts are available for 3 or more children. Please call for more information.

If payment of registration fees poses a financial hardship, please contact us and allow us to assist you.

Catechetical Sunday Blessing of Catechists at all Masses Saturday, September 16 and Sunday, September 17

Those who the Community has designated to serve as catechists will be called forth to be commissioned for their ministry. Catechetical Sunday is a wonderful opportunity to reflect on the role that each person plays, by virtue of Baptism, in handing on the faith and being a witness to the Gospel. Catechetical Sunday is an opportunity for all to rededicate themselves to this mission as a community of faith.

When you attend Mass this weekend, all parish catechists and Catholic school teachers will be invited to present themselves for a blessing as part of the Prayer of the Faithful. For new and returning catechists, we thank you for allowing us to pray for you and bless your ministry.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (continued) Registering for Sacramental Preparation

Sacramental preparation for 1st Reconciliation, 1st Eucharist, Confirmation, and Christian Initiation for Children/Teens (CIC/CIT) is not grade specific and involves preparation in addition to grade level Religious Education classes. At minimum, children are expected to have participated in religious education in the year prior to preparing for a sacrament. ***Please note: students preparing for the Sacrament of Confirmation will attend their grade-level Religious Education classes as well as monthly Confirmation sessions.***

Families requesting sacramental preparation for their child are asked to mark their registration form accordingly so that additional information can be provided. Please note that there is a separate materials fee for sacramental preparation programs. More details will be provided at the parent meetings in the fall.

Ways to Serve

The entire parish community shares responsibility for faith formation and the support of many volunteers makes our programs successful. There are a variety of ways to serve, including weekly, monthly, and “as needed” commitments:

- Catechist (especially for our Elementary sessions on Sunday morning and Monday afternoon)
- Classroom Aide
- Substitute Catechist
- Support for Service Projects
- Support for Art Projects (at home preparation)
- Help with Sacramental Celebrations & Special Events

Please consider supporting our Religious Education program as a volunteer! To learn more, please call the Religious Education Office at 301-258-9193.

GABRIEL PROJECT CLUSTER

Want to put your pro-life beliefs into action? Women need to know, before they get pregnant, about the help that the Gabriel Project Cluster of Montgomery provides. You can help a pregnant mother in several ways. Clothes gently used or new are needed, especially fall and winter items. Maternity clothes, infant clothes, children’s clothes, children’s shoes, etc., are all appreciated. Women volunteers (especially bilingual English and Spanish speaking women) are needed to assist client mothers. This includes keeping in touch with them via text, phone, or email during their pregnancy; bringing them needed items, such as diapers, baby clothes, formula, etc., that are provided by the project; and praying for them. The average time commitment would be approximately 1 - 4 hours per month. Men are also needed to set up cribs or to pick up donations once or twice per month. Please visit our Website for more information at www.gpmoco.org or contact: Betty Baklarz-- lbaklarz@yahoo.com.

MAUI DISASTER RELIEF

Thank you to everyone who donated to help the people in Hawaii. \$5,198 was forwarded to Catholic Charities to be sent to those areas in need of help.

ST. MARTIN'S FOOD PANTRY SHORTAGES

Pasta
Pasta Sauce
Macaroni & Cheese
Meals in a can (Stew, Canned Pasta, Chili, etc.)
Canned Soup
Oatmeal/Cereal
Canned Beans
Canned Fruit
Dried Rice & Beans

Baby Formula: Similac Blue & Similac Orange, and/or domestic or foreign equivalents/substitutes. Diapers size 4 & 5, Baby wipes, Pediasure.

Ensure
Adult Pull-ups Medium, Large, Extra-large

Paper Bags (Walmart or 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.

We need your help in order to help those in need!

HOLIDAY BAZAAR CRAFTERS

ST. FRANCIS ANNUAL HOLIDAY BAZAAR Saturday, November 11, 2023

We will be making crafts for the 2023 Holiday Bazaar on Wednesday September 20 at 7:00 p.m. in the Parish Center. If you enjoy being creative and socializing with fellow parishioners, please plan on attending. Also, projects can be taken home to work on. For additional information, please call the Parish Office, 301- 840-1407.

ONLINE GIVING

With the arrival of autumn, I'd like to invite you to join Faith Direct, our parish's electronic giving program. Our to-do lists can get lengthy during this season, but Faith Direct's eGiving program will give you one less thing to remember each week--no more envelopes to find before you go to Mass. Getting started with eGiving is easy. Here are the ways to sign up: Visit faith.direct/MD110 or • Call Faith Direct Customer Service at 866-507-8757. MD110 is the church number for St. Francis.

E-GIVERS PLEASE NOTE

If you are using Faith Direct or other means of e-giving and are no longer in need of your contribution envelopes, please notify the parish office to discontinue your envelopes. You will keep your same parishioner number, you will just stop receiving the envelopes and will save the parish the expense of printing and mailing the envelopes to your home. Questions? Please call the parish office, 301-840-1407. *Thank you!*

Spotlight on St. Jude Regional Catholic School

We are...St. Jude

www.StJudeRockville.org

Accepting Applications for: 5th and 6th Grade English/Language Arts Teacher

COME SEE YOURSELF AT SJRCS! We are looking for passionate and dedicated educators for the 2023-2024 school year. Along with true Catholic identity, high school prep academics, and a welcoming community of parents, students, faculty, and staff, SJRCS boasts a diverse enrollment where those of every race and culture can see themselves and feel at home. To apply, email Jeanne Donatelli, Principal at jeanne.donatelli@stjuderockville.org

Have you heard Mrs. Donatelli's PSA??

Listen to EWTN/Guadalupe Radio 1160AM or 103.1FM to hear Mrs. Donatelli speaking about St. Jude Regional Catholic School on the radio! Thank you, Joe Schuler, Development Director at Guadalupe Radio for hosting Mrs. Donatelli, Mrs. Balog, and Mrs. Donnelly at the EWTN station! "God wants you to be in the world, but so different from the world that you will change it. Get cracking." -Mother Angelica

The 2023 Fr. Kapaun Outdoor Mass is on Friday, September 22nd at 9:00am. Mass will take place on the Mercury side parking lot. All are invited! Special invite to all active and retired military, police, firefighters, and all first responders are invited. Let's fill our parking lot and pray together for the Sainthood of Fr. Kapaun. Fr. Kapaun... pray for us!

Catholic Schools Night at Audi Field!

D.C. United vs. Red Bull New York

Saturday, September 23 @ 7:30PM

Buy Tickets: bit.ly/adwsoccer

Join us in your school spiritwear to cheer on the black and red with families in our ADW Catholic schools!

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 bin in the lower parking lot between the church and rectory. Please make sure your clothing donation is clean and in good shape. Put it in a plastic bag and deposit it in the bin. Items are collected regularly and will be a great blessing to those in need.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS MONTGOMERY COUNCIL 2323

Montgomery Council 2323 is recruiting new members. Join the largest Catholic fraternal organization in the world and the "strong right arm" of the Catholic Church. We are dedicated to charity, unity, fraternity and family while having a lot of fun doing good for others! For a limited time only get **one year free** online membership by clicking on the QR Code below! For more information contact Membership Director, John DeMare at johnd2323@comcast.net or 240-354-6648. *Vivat Jesus!*



SCAN ME

Anuncios del boletín del 17 de septiembre de 2023:

Ultimo fin de semana para comprar boletos para la rifa del Consejo de Estado de KoC

Este fin de semana, 16 y 17 de septiembre, es el último fin de semana para comprar boletos para la Rifa Anual de Incentivos en Efectivo del Consejo Estatal de Maryland de Caballeros de Colón después de todas las Misas en el Espacio de Reunión. Los boletos cuestan \$1 cada uno, con Montgomery Council 2323 recibiendo 60 centavos por cada boleto vendido. Las ganancias de la rifa del consejo beneficiarán a varias actividades del Consejo, incluidos los seminaristas del Papa Juan Pablo II y el programa Coats for Kids. Por favor, apoyen estas nobles causas.

Cursos de estudio bíblico de Caminando con Propósito para mujeres a partir de la próxima semana

Mujeres de nuestra parroquia, ¿les gustaría unirse a un curso de estudio bíblico este otoño? Caminar con Propósito proporciona materiales alineados con la enseñanza de la Iglesia que están dirigidos a las mujeres y sus experiencias. Dos cursos separados comenzarán los lunes por la tarde y los jueves por la mañana en nuestra parroquia, a partir de la próxima semana. Por favor, venga a las jornadas de puertas abiertas a las 4:45 pm del lunes 18 de septiembre en el Centro Parroquial o a las 10:15 am del jueves 21 de septiembre en la Sala Kuehner para obtener más información y registrarse. Para obtener más información, comuníquese con Eileen Grams en ehgrams@yahoo.com o con Lita Silva en litasilva4@gmail.com.

RSVP ahora para asistir a nuestro picnic parroquial el 8 de octubre

El domingo 8 de octubre, la parroquia de San Francisco de Asís celebrará nuestra fiesta con nuestro picnic parroquial anual de 12:30 a 4 pm en los terrenos de la parroquia. Venga a disfrutar de una deliciosa comida atendida por Simply Fresh, juegos, manualidades, un Moonbounce y un carrito de helados. La Bendición de los Animales tendrá lugar a las 3 pm frente a la iglesia.

Junto con el picnic parroquial, también celebraremos el primer aniversario de nuestra misa en español en la misa de la 1 pm de ese día en la iglesia. Habiendo comenzado el 2 de octubre de 2022, la Misa en español atrae regularmente a 130 fieles semanalmente.

Por favor, confirme su asistencia para el picnic parroquial utilizando el enlace Flocknote en los mensajes quincenales de Flocknote del P. John. Para obtener más información o para ser voluntario, comuníquese con la Coordinadora del Ministerio de Eventos Especiales Sylvia Jones en decaffqueen@gmail.com.

PROYECTO GABRIEL DEL CONDADO DE MONTGOMERY

¿Deseas poner en práctica tus creencias provida? Antes de quedar embarazadas, es importante que las mujeres conozcan la ayuda que brinda el Proyecto Gabriel del Condado de Montgomery. Hay varias maneras de ayudar a una futura mamá: Necesitamos calzado y prendas nuevas o de poco uso, especialmente de otoño e invierno, para embarazadas, bebés y niños. También necesitamos mujeres voluntarias (especialmente bilingües en inglés y español) para ayudar a nuestras clientes. Las voluntarias se mantienen contacto con las futuras mamás a través de mensajes de texto, teléfono o correo electrónico; les llevan los artículos necesarios, como pañales, ropa de bebé, fórmula, etc., que proporciona el Proyecto; y oran por ellas. El compromiso de tiempo es de aproximadamente 1 a 4 horas por mes. Por último, necesitamos hombres voluntarios para instalar cunas o recoger donaciones una o dos veces al mes. Visita nuestro sitio web www.gpmoco.org para obtener más información o comunícate con: Betty Baklarz -- lbbaklarz@yahoo.com.

UN RECORDATORIO DEL P. JOHN ... Si alguien está viviendo en un matrimonio que no ha sido reconocido por la Iglesia Católica, sería prudente consultar con un sacerdote para ver si esa situación podría ser rectificada. Puede ser tan simple como renovar sus votos matrimoniales en silencio frente a un sacerdote y recibir la bendición de la Iglesia. De esa manera, uno puede ser elegible para recibir los sacramentos de la Iglesia, especialmente la Eucaristía.

DONACIONES EN LÍNEA

Con la llegada del otoño, me gustaría invitarlos a unirse a Faith Direct, el programa de donaciones electrónicas de nuestra parroquia. Nuestras listas de tareas pueden ser largas durante esta temporada, pero el programa eGiving de Faith Direct le dará una cosa menos para recordar cada semana: no más sobres para encontrar antes de ir a misa. Comenzar con eGiving es fácil. Estas son las formas de registrarse:

- Visite faith.direct/MD110
- Llame al Servicio al Cliente de Faith Direct al 866-507-8757



ST. FRANCIS PARISH PICNIC
BLESSING OF ANIMALS