

Mass Intentions

October 9 - October 15, 2023

Monday, 10/9	9:00 a.m.	Bob Young
Tuesday, 10/10	9:00 a.m.	Sarah Seyed-Ali (L)
Wednesday, 10/11	9:00 a.m.	Robert Young
	7:30 p.m.	Yose Chapeton
Thursday, 10/12	9:00 a.m.	Msgr. Ralph Kuehner
Friday, 10/13	9:00 a.m.	Giuseppe Valentino
Saturday, 10/14	5:00 p.m.	Don Smith
Sunday, 10/15	8:00 a.m.	Jimmy Gierula
	9:30 a.m.	<i>Pro populo</i>
	11:15 a.m.	Livia Laffey
	1:00 p.m.	Diocelina Jimenez
	5:00 p.m.	Father John Rizzato

+ In Memoriam Aeternam +

In your charity, please pray for the repose of the souls of Deacon Perry F. Iannaconi and Reverend Roderick D. McKee, Archdiocese of Washington.

Please pray for the sick... Callie Mc Gowan, Diana Marie Lacour Kustedjo, Lisan Collins, Andre Polissedjian, Joan Misko, Mark Lynch, Christine Degen, Anna Calabria, 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 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 October 8, 2023

Sunday:	Is 5:1-7/Ps 80:9, 12, 13-14, 15-16, 19-20 (Isaiah 5:7a)/Phil 4:6-9/Mt 21:33-43
Monday:	Jon 1:1—2:2, 11/Jon 2:3, 4, 5, 8/Lk 10:25-37
Tuesday:	Jon 3:1-10/ Ps 130:1b-2, 3-4ab, 7-8/ Lk 10:38-42
Wednesday:	Jon 4:1-11/Ps 86:3-4, 5-6, 9-10/Lk 11:1-4
Thursday:	Mal 3:13-20b/Ps 1:1-2, 3, 4 and 6/Lk 11:5-13
Friday:	Jl 1:13-15; 2:1-2/Ps 9:2-3, 6 and 16, 8-9/ Lk 11:15-26
Saturday:	Jl 4:12-21/Ps 97:1-2, 5-6, 11-12/Lk 11:27-28
Next Sunday:	Is 25:6-10a/Ps 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6 (6cd)/ Phil 4:12-14, 19-20/Mt 22:1-14 or 22:1-10

POOR BOX DONATIONS

The donations for next weekend will go to UMAN (Upper Montgomery Assistance Network). *Thank you for your generosity.*

THE MUSINGS OF THE PASTOR

Dorothy Mae Stang was born in Dayton, Ohio on June 7, 1931. After she graduated from high school in 1948, she entered the Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur. Sr. Dorothy professed her final vows in 1956. From 1951 to 1966 she taught in Catholic elementary schools in Illinois and Arizona. In 1966 she volunteered to work in Brazil. Eventually she was drawn to the remote regions of the Amazon and the cause of poor farmers who were exploited and robbed by rich loggers and cattle barons. Because of her criticisms of illegal logging and her continual defense of poor farmers, her co-workers named her “the steel flower.”

Bishop Erwin Kräutler who was Sr. Dorothy’s supervisor in Brazil once told David Stang, a brother of Sr. Dorothy, how he met her. At 10:00 p.m. one night she knocked on his door. He asked her why she was there. “I want you to tell me where are the poorest of the poor in your prelature. I would like to work with them.” Bishop Kräutler was astounded by this first meeting with him. He reported that the other nuns went through bureaucratic procedures and documents but not Sr. Dorothy. Bishop Kräutler was duly impressed. There was no way he was going to turn her down. Later on, he reported that she was a very decided woman who made strong decisions. He noted that Sr Dorothy understood that a missionary has to walk with the people who have no voice. She gave her life to defend their rights. The bishop strongly believed that hers was an evangelical life.

Felicio Pontes, a Brazilian lawyer who worked closely with Sr. Dorothy in documenting the rights of poor farmers remarked that sustainable agriculture was Sr. Dorothy’s great contribution to the Amazon. She started cocoa production with a group of small farmers near Anapu (Brazil), using seeds that were native to the region. They grew quickly and produced a bumper crop in three years. Attorney Pontes said this was a great example of integral ecology. The farmers had nothing but in a few short years they had money to purchase cars and to improve their lives. It was a small project but the landowners and ranchers considered it a serious threat to them. (Integral ecology refers to an integrated and holistic approach to political, social, economic, and environmental problems. Integral ecology means that everything is connected and decisions made by people affect creation, others, and future generations. Pope Francis popularized the concept of integral ecology in *Laudato Si*).

Well into her seventies, Sr. Dorothy would walk slowly and with heavy steps because of the mud and thick forests to attend prayer services and labor meetings. On the morning of February 12, 2005, Sr. Dorothy woke up early to walk to a community meeting to speak about the rights of Amazon. A local farmer who she had invited to the meeting was a couple of minutes behind her. The farmer was able to see and hid from two armed men who followed her. Eventually they blocked her and asked her if she had any weapons. Sr. Dorothy claimed that the only weapon that she had was the Bible. She then read a passage from the Beatitudes: “Blessed are the poor in spirit...” She continued a couple of steps when they fired a round into her abdomen, her back, and then four rounds into her head.

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

October 8, 2023

QUESTION OF THE WEEK

What specific thing can I do this week to produce fruit for the kingdom of God?

AT MASS OF THANKSGIVING, WE GIVE THANKS FOR BOUNTIFUL GIFTS

All parishioners are invited to attend a special Mass in Thanksgiving for our Gifts to be held at 9 am Saturday, October 14, in the church. The Mass kicks off the launch of our parish offertory appeal, during which parishioners will be asked to consider the bountiful gifts with which God has blessed them and then determine how much to give back in stewardship to our church. Please join us at Mass as we thank God for our many gifts! For more information, please call the Parish Office at (301) 840-1407.

COME CELEBRATE ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI AT OUR PARISH PICNIC

On Sunday, October 8, our parish community will celebrate the feast day of our patron saint with our Parish Picnic. Although it's too late to RSVP for the catered lunch, please join us on the parish grounds between 12:30-4 pm for games, crafts, facepainting, an ice cream cart, and a Moonbounce. The Blessing of Animals will take place at 3 pm in front of the church. As part of our parish celebration, our Spanish speaking and bilingual parishioners will also celebrate the first anniversary of our Mass in Spanish at the 1 pm liturgy. Washington Auxiliary Bishop Evelio Menjivar-Ayala will celebrate the Mass; all are welcome to attend!

PARISH OFFICES WILL BE CLOSED MONDAY, OCTOBER 9TH COLUMBUS/INDIGENOUS PEOPLES' DAY

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!*

THE MUSINGS OF THE PASTOR (continued)

Sr. Dorothy's death aroused the Brazilian government and the whole world to the cause of ecology and justice for which she offered her life.

Let me close this column with a quote from Sr. Dorothy: "I light a candle and look at Jesus on the cross and ask for the strength to carry the suffering of the people. Don't worry about my safety. The safety of the people is what is important."

Until next week,
Fr. John

WELCOME to the Family of Christ!

The following individual and their family recently joined our St. Francis faith community during the month of September:

Roxana Mejia Aguilar
Lyncy Mendoza Cana
Betty Carbajal
Jose Diaz
John & Lennin Greenwood
Walfer Lima
Jose & Sonilda Limo
Kate Marcell
Julian & Solymar Miranda
Jason & Danielle Pajaro
Gene & Chong Pennello
Sou & Christine Phoubandith
Mary Grace Ramos
Eno Rosales
Solina Rosales

The following children was baptized during the month of September:

Charlotte Roxanne Moody
Valantina Tatiana Moody
Aurora Ogenna Ozoji
Isabella Joy Pajaro
Angie Edith Vanega Paniagua
Sofia Andrea Silva

COMMEMORATE RESPECT LIFE MONTH BY UPHOLDING THE LIVES OF MOTHERS AND BABIES

As we celebrate Respect Life Month as a faith community, we are invited to engage in large and small acts to demonstrate our respect for the dignity of human life. These could include:

- Picking up a baby bottle in the Gathering Space to contribute to the Shady Grove Pregnancy Center's Baby Bottle Campaign. Fill a bottle with coins, currency, or a check made out to Shady Grove Pregnancy Center; don't forget to put 'St. Francis BBC' in the memo. You can also access our parish's unique giving page at <https://donate.givedirect.org/?cid=15939>.
- Joining your fellow parishioners along the sidewalk in front of the Jackson Place abortion center, 932 Hungerford Drive in Rockville, after 8 am Saturday, November 4. The vigil is part of the 40 Days for Life campaign taking place from September 27-November 5.

For more information, please contact Respect Life Ministry Coordinator Lita Silva at litasilva4@gmail.com.

THANK YOU

In the past few weeks, some brothers from our Hispanic Community have contributed their time, work, and resources to the parish by cleaning, restoring, and repainting the statue at the entrance to our parish parking lot as well as by doing some landscaping work around the statue. As we enjoy the results of that contribution, we thank everyone involved in it and pray that the Lord may repay them a hundred-fold.

2023-24 RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROGRAM FOR KINDERGARTEN THROUGH GRADE 8



NO RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CLASSES ON OCTOBER 8, 9 AND 10

There will be no Religious Education classes on Sunday, Monday, and Tuesday, October 8, 9 and 10. In lieu of class, we hope that all RE families will plan to attend the Parish Picnic on Sunday, October 8.

CONFIRMATION CANDIDATE & PARENT MEETING: OCTOBER 11

For those who have registered for this year's Confirmation Program, there will be a meeting for students and parents on Wednesday, October 11, from 6:45-8:30 pm in the Parish Center. Letters with additional information are being mailed to families with children registered for Confirmation this year. If you have any questions about this meeting or our Confirmation program, please call Susan Anderson at 301-258-9193.

FIRST RECONCILIATION PARENT MEETING: OCTOBER 18

There will be a First Reconciliation Parent Meeting on Wednesday, October 18, at 7:30 pm in the Parish Center for those who have registered their children for First Reconciliation and First Eucharist preparation this year. Letters with additional information were mailed to families with children registered for sacraments this year. If you have questions, please call the Religious Education Office, 301-258-9193.

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. 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 October.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CLASS UPDATE

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. *Children must be registered before they can begin classes.*

Questions? Call the Religious Education Office at 301-258-9193 or email sfareligioused@sfadw.org.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (continued)

Ministry Opportunity in Religious Education at St. Francis, Derwood

Our Religious Education Office is looking to hire a part-time Program Assistant. Interested candidates must be available to work Sunday mornings (8-11 am) and some Saturdays during the school year. Job responsibilities include supporting Sunday morning Religious Education classes (September-May), supporting Sacramental Preparation programs, and assisting the Director of Religious Education with program activities. The qualified candidate should have excellent interpersonal skills, ability to organize and follow through with details, and must satisfactorily complete a criminal record and background check per the Archdiocese regulations for employees working with children and young people. Please forward your resume and letter of interest to: sander-son@sfadw.org.

ONE LIVING CHURCH, ONE DIVERSE FAMILY, ONE COMMON HOUSE

All are welcome to join the White Mass at 11 am Sunday, October 15, at St. Rose of Lima Catholic Church in Gaithersburg, as we celebrate the gifts and contributions people who are Deaf and people living with disabilities bring to our families, communities and Church. During the White Mass, we wear white to symbolize our unity as one Church family through our Baptism. The principal celebrant is Archdiocese of Washington Auxiliary Bishop Ezequiel Menjívar. For more information, please contact the Office of Deaf and Disabilities Ministry at special-needsministry@adw.org or call (301) 853-4560/ (301) 200-5430 VP.

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--lbbaklarz@yahoo.com.

REMINDER....
BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 8
3:00 PM
IN FRONT OF THE CHURCH

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, Baby wipes, Pediasure.

Ensure
Adult Pull-ups Medium, 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.

ST. FRANCIS ANNUAL HOLIDAY BAZAAR Saturday, November 11

JEWELRY DONATIONS

Please drop the jewelry off at the parish office or leave your treasured items in the mailbox on the Rectory porch if the office is closed.

SILENT AUCTION ITEMS NEEDED

We are looking for silent auction items such as Time Shares, Sports Tickets, Theater Passes, etc. for our Fall Bazaar. For more information or to make arrangements to donate, please call the Parish Office, Donna, (301) 840-1407.

THEME BASKETS FOR SILENT AUCTION

If you would like to make up a theme basket for the Silent Auction, please call the Parish Office to let us know you are donating a special basket. Theme Baskets are always a big hit! ***Please drop off your Theme Basket no later than Thursday, November 9th.***

SHABBY CHIC

If you have "good quality" items that you would like to donate to the Shabby Chic, please drop them off on Wednesday, November 8, 12 Noon-6 pm in the Parish Center. No clothing or shoes,

GIFT CARDS OR GIFT CERTIFICATES

If you have unused gift cards or gift certificates that you received but know you'll never use, please consider donating them to the Silent Auction. You can drop them off at the Parish Office or put them in the collection basket in an envelope marked "Bazaar".

MILLIE'S BAKE SHOP

We will be asking parishioners to sign-up for Millie's Bake Shop at the end of October. Please watch the bulletin for more details. Store bought goodies again this year please.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

We will be asking for volunteers at the end of October so please watch the bulletin for volunteer sign-up dates.

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

www.StJudeRockville.org

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

Join us at OKTOBERFEST

October 21, 2023
6:30pm-10:30pm
Thaddeus Room

Ticket Prices

\$30/person - Early Bird
\$40/person starting Sept. 30th
\$45/person at the door

Ticket price includes traditional German food such as brats, potato salad, sauerkraut, and pretzels. And of course, wein and bier!

Bring your friends!

ADULTS ONLY

https://www.eventbrite.com/e/octoberfest-tickets-717787972147?aff=oddttdcreatorcind&fbclid=IwAR0bqfTmR946ZUlnbr5GJfEU0I5L398SBaFbqmHVQhPz6_J8VMEznps7i6M

Fr. Kapaun Outdoor School Mass

Our school community, along with active and retired military and servicemen and women, honored Father Emil Kapaun's legacy and path to sainthood! Father Kapaun served as a chaplain during the Korean War and his influence was critical to the soldiers entrusted to his spiritual care. Servant of the Lord Fr. Kapaun...Pray

THANK YOU SAINT FRANCIS

Father Bill Ryan and the Board of Directors of Togo Mission, Inc. thank the parishioners of Saint Francis of Assisi for its donation of \$9,277 to the mission in Togo where Father Ryan serves. Please know that every dollar that is donated to Togo Mission is put right away to very good practical use. Father Ryan gives the board a detailed update during his annual home visit, so please be assured your contributions are well spent. May God bless you and yours.

OUR LADY OF FATIMA

In honor of Our Lady of Fatima's second apparition, June 13, 1917, The World Apostolate of Fatima, Archdiocese of Washington Division "*The Blue Army*" Invites you to Rosary, Mass, Confession, Divine Mercy Chaplet, and Blessing with St. Rafael Healing Oil on Tuesday, October 13 at 1:00 pm in the Immaculate Heart of Mary Chapel, Basilica of the National Shrine, Michigan Ave, DC. For more information call 301-595-1770.

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! For more information contact Membership Director, John DeMare, johnd2323@comcast.net or 240-354-6648. **Vivat Jesus!**



SCAN ME

Anuncios del boletín Del 8 de octubre de 2023:

Venga a celebrar a San Francisco de Asís en nuestro Picnic Parroquial

El domingo, 8 de octubre, nuestra comunidad parroquial celebrará la fiesta de nuestro santo patrón con nuestro Picnic Parroquial. Aunque es demasiado tarde para confirmar su asistencia al almuerzo, por favor únase a nosotros en los terrenos de la parroquia entre las 12:30 y las 4 p. m. para disfrutar de juegos, manualidades, pintura de caras, un carrito de helados y un Rebote Lunar. La Bendición de los Animales tendrá lugar a las 3:00 pm frente a la iglesia.

Como parte de nuestra celebración parroquial, nuestros feligreses hispanohablantes y bilingües también celebrarán el primer aniversario de nuestra Misa en español en la liturgia de la 1 pm. El obispo auxiliar de Washington, Evelio Menjívar-Ayala, celebrará la misa; ¡Todos son bienvenidos!

En la Misa de Acción de Gracias, damos gracias por los abundantes obsequios

Todos los feligreses están invitados a asistir a una Misa especial de Acción de Gracias por nuestros Dones que se llevará a cabo a las 9 am el sábado, 14 de octubre en la iglesia. La Misa inicia el lanzamiento de nuestra campaña de ofertorio parroquial, durante la cual se pedirá a los feligreses que consideren los abundantes dones con los que Dios los ha bendecido y luego determinen cuánto devolver en administración a nuestra iglesia. ¡Únase a nosotros en la Misa mientras agradecemos a Dios por nuestros muchos dones!

Para obtener más información, llame a la Oficina Parroquial al (301) 840-1407.

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 en o

GRACIAS

En las últimas semanas algunos de nosotros hemos contribuido con su tiempo, trabajo y con varios recursos a la comunidad parroquial, limpiando, restaurando y repintando la estatua en la entrada del estacionamiento de nuestra parroquia; así como también haciendo algunos trabajos de jardinería alrededor de la estatua. Mientras disfrutamos de los resultados de esa contribución, agradecemos a todos los involucrados en ella y oramos para que el Señor se lo pague con sus bendiciones

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Conmemore el Mes del Respeto a la Vida defendiendo la vida de madres y bebés

Mientras celebramos el Mes del Respeto a la Vida como comunidad de fe, se nos invita a participar en actos grandes y pequeños para demostrar nuestro respeto por la dignidad de la vida humana. Estos podrían incluir:

- Recoger un biberón en el espacio de reunión para contribuir a la campaña de biberones del Centro de Embarazo Shady Grove. Llene una botella con monedas, billetes ó un cheque a nombre de Shady Grove Pregnant Center; No olvide poner 'St. Francis BBC' en el memorando. También puede acceder a la página de donaciones única de nuestra parroquia en <https://donate.givedirect.org/?cid=15939>.
- Unirse a sus compañeros feligreses a lo largo de la acera frente al centro de abortos de Jackson Place, 932 Hungerford Drive en Rockville, después de las 8 am del sábado, 4 de noviembre. La vigilia es parte de la campaña 40 Días por la Vida que se llevará a cabo del 27 de septiembre al 5 de noviembre.

Para obtener más información, comuníquese con la Coordinadora del Ministerio Respeto a la Vida, Lita Silva, en litasilva4@gmail.com.

Una Iglesia Viva, Una Familia Diversa, Una Casa Común

Todos son bienvenidos a unirse a la Misa Blanca a las 11 am el domingo, 15 de octubre en la Iglesia Católica Santa Rosa de Lima en Gaithersburg, mientras celebramos los dones y contribuciones que las personas sordas y las personas con discapacidades aportan a nuestras familias, comunidades e Iglesia. Durante la Misa Blanca, nos vestimos de blanco para simbolizar nuestra unidad como una familia de la Iglesia a través de nuestro Bautismo. El celebrante principal es el obispo auxiliar de la Arquidiócesis de Washington, Evelio Menjívar. Para obtener más información, comuníquese con la Oficina del Ministerio de Sordos y Discapacidades en specialneedsministry@adw.org o llame al (301) 853-4560/ (301) 200-5430 VP.