

ST FRANCIS OF ASSISI, DERWOOD

Mass Intentions

November 20 - November 26, 2023

Monday, 11/20	9:00 a.m.	Pat Mooney
Tuesday, 11/21	9:00 a.m.	Rev. Howard Bleichner
Wednesday, 11/22	9:00 a.m.	Jackie Walters
	7:30 p.m.	Rev. George Wilkinson
Thursday, 11/23	10:00 a.m.	In Thanksgiving
Friday, 11/24	9:00 a.m.	Poor Souls in Purgatory
Saturday, 11/25	5:00 p.m.	Patsy & Stella Battista
Sunday, 11/26	8:00 a.m.	Maria Dulce Calabia
	9:30 a.m.	Moises De Joya
	11:15 a.m.	<i>Pro populo</i>
	1:00 p.m.	Bogumil Okulewicz (L)
	5:00 p.m.	Eleanor Sabalbaro

+ In Memoriam Aeternam +

In your charity, please pray for the repose of the souls of Florence Middleton, wife of Deacon Henry Middleton, Reverend Robert Richardson, Archdiocese of Washington.

Please pray for the sick... Marge Palmer, Matthew Mikula, Anna Calabia, Caramia Caballero-Calabia, Maria de Los Angeles Concepcion, Eduardo De Ausen, Kathy McKee, Vincent Emanuele, Joan Misko, Christine Degen, 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 Dudenhofer, 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 November 19, 2023

Sunday:	Prv 31:10-13, 19-20, 30-31/Ps 128:1-2, 3, 4-5 (see 1a)/1 Thes 5:1-6/Mt 25:14-30 or 25:14-15, 19-21
Monday:	1 Mc 1:10-15, 41-43, 54-57, 62-63/Ps 119:53, 61, 134, 150, 155, 158/Lk 18:35-43
Tuesday:	2 Mc 6:18-31/Ps 3:2-3, 4-5, 6-7/Lk 19:1-10
Wednesday:	2 Mc 7:1, 20-31/Ps 17:1bcd, 5-6, 8b and 15/ Lk 19:11-28
Thursday:	1 Mc 2:15-29/Ps 50:1b-2, 5-6, 14-15/ Lk 19:41-44
Friday:	1 Mc 4:36-37, 52-59/1 Chr 29:10bcd, 11abc, 11d-12a, 12bcd/Lk 19:45-48
Saturday:	1 Mc 6:1-13/Ps 9:2-3, 4 and 6, 16 and 19/ Lk 20:27-40
Next Sunday:	Ez 34:11-12, 15-17/Ps 23:1-2, 2-3, 5-6 (1)/ 1 Cor 15:20-26, 28/Mt 25:31-4

STEWARDSHIP REPORT

**Figures were not available at the time of publication.
Thank you for your continued support!**

POOR BOX DONATIONS

The donations for next weekend will go to Catholic Charities Prison Ministry Program. *Thank you for your generosity.*

THE MUSINGS OF THE PASTOR

Isaac Hecker (1819-1888) was born to a family of German immigrants in New York City. When he was five, his father deserted the family. Because of the financial crisis this caused the family, his two older brothers left school and became apprenticed bakers. Young Isaac joined them in the family business. As a young man he had a mystical experience. This led him on a spiritual journey from the Methodist Church to Unitarianism, Mormonism, the Transcendentalist Community at Brook Farm, and finally to Catholicism at the age of twenty-five. This was a very countercultural move on his part as anti-Catholicism in America was at an all-time high. Shortly after becoming a Catholic, he felt a call to the priesthood and entered the Redemptorist Fathers. Isaac Hecker believed that Catholicism and Americanism were complimentary. If the Catholic Church could free itself from its European appearances, he thought, it could fulfill its ultimate mission: the conversion of America to Catholicism.

The Redemptorist superiors were not sympathetic to these ideals and wanted Father Hecker and his companions to stick with the plan of ministering to Catholic immigrants coming from Europe. Eventually Father Hecker won the support of the Holy See to establish a community in the United States devoted to the conversion of Protestants: the Congregation of St. Paul the Apostle (Paulists). Father Hecker and the other Paulist Fathers went on the lecture circuit in the United States to make the point that the Catholic faith and the principles of American democracy were compatible. In the end Father Hecker did not convert America to Catholicism.

Father Hecker attended the First Vatican Council as a theologian for Bishop James Gibbons of North Carolina. He returned from the Council enthusiastically wanting to resume his work. Instead at fifty-five he learned that he had chronic leukemia. He had difficulty believing that God, for whom he had been doing such great work, would allow him to be struck down at a relatively young age. Illness made him feel as if God had abandoned him and was tempted to judge the efforts of his life to have been useless. But as he became weaker through the ravages of the leukemia, his spirit found new strength. He turned back the despair and was able to accept God's will in his life. He died on December 22, 1888, at the Paulist House in New York.

Father Hecker's writings on the Holy Spirit foreshadowed by about eighty years the interest that the Second Vatican Council on that important topic. Indeed, his work led indirectly to the contribution of the American bishops for securing wider respect in the Church for the principles of democracy, the separation of Church and state, and religious pluralism at the Second Vatican Council.

Until next week,
Fr. John

November 19, 2023

QUESTION OF THE WEEK

How do I share my gifts? What talent have I been told I have but am afraid to share out in the open?

PLEASE RESPOND TO OUR PARISH OFFERTORY APPEAL

As we pause soon to give thanks at our Thanksgiving tables, all St. Francis of Assisi parishioners are encouraged to take part in our Amen Generosity parish offertory appeal. Please return the pledge card either mailed to your home or that you picked up from the pew pocket at church with your pledge to financially support our parish in its fiscal operation and good ministry works. You can also establish or increase your recurring financial gift by going to our Faith Direct page at <https://membership.faithdirect.net/MD110>. Please remember that your generosity helps our parish move its mission forward! For more information, please contact the Parish Office at (301) 840-1407.

VOLUNTEERS , COME HELP AT THE PARISH CHRISTMAS TREE SALE, NOVEMBER 25-DECEMBER 10

With the tree lot now in place, our parish is just waiting for the 205 Christmas trees set to arrive Friday, November 24, for our annual holiday fundraiser. Many more volunteers are needed to offload and stake the trees on November 24 and begin selling them on November 25. Men and women are invited to sign up for as many shifts as possible at <https://sfaderwood.flocknote.com/signup/142558>. **This online signup will be the only means by which to sign up this year.**

A few points:

- The Christmas Tree Sale will be open at 9 am Saturday, November 25, through Sunday, December 10, or whenever supplies run out.
- The 205 trees we will receive are all the supplier can give us; in addition, we are doing business with a new vendor. Also, due to continuing tree shortages, freight surcharges, and inflation, the trees will be more expensive than last year.
- We will also receive 48 wreaths to ensure we don't have a surplus in the end.

Please plan accordingly to get your Christmas tree and wreath early in the sales season. And don't forget to sign up to volunteer at the tree lot – we need your help to make this festive parish fundraiser a success! For more information, contact Brian at brianpettit@pettitcompanies.com.

SPIRIT TREE

The Spirit Tree is up. Once again we will be providing gift cards for the families of Assumption Parish and our Refugee Families. Please take a tag from the Spirit Tree to help a family with a gift card. There are envelopes next to the tree for you to use to return your gift. The families really welcomed the gift cards last year. They have asked for gift cards from Giant, Safeway, Aldi, Lidl and Target in card amounts of \$25 and \$10. You can donate as many cards as you want for each family. **Cards should be returned on or before Monday, December 11th.**

SATURDAY MORNING SPIRITUAL READING GROUP ANNOUNCEMENT

Anastacia Wooden, Professor at **The Catholic University of America** in the **School of Theology and Religious Studies** and a member of our Parish has offered to join parishioners monthly on Saturday mornings at 8:00 AM to discuss: **The New Testament World Insights from Cultural Anthropology** a Book which takes us into the Mediterranean culture 2000 years ago to deepen our understanding of the values, personalities and behavior of the people in Jesus' life. Plan to take advantage of this valuable opportunity to add a new dimension to your appreciation of Scripture set in 1st Century A.D. **starting December 2nd** in the Kuehner Room off of the Gathering Space. Material will be provided, and coffee and tea will be served. For more information call: Trish Olin 240-355-5753 or email mpolin@comcast.net.

Thanksgiving



THANKSGIVING DAY MASS WILL BE AT 10:00 A.M.

There will be no 9:00 a.m. Daily Mass on Thanksgiving Day.
Parish Offices will be closed November 23/24.

**Happy Thanksgiving
from Fr. John, Fr. William, Fr. G
and the Parish Staff!**

THANKS TO PARTICIPANTS AT ST. FRANCIS DAY ON NOVEMBER 4

Thank you to St. Francis of Assisi parishioners Mike, Sandra, and David, as well as Director of Social Concerns and Adult Faith Formation Tony Bosnick, for coming out to pray the Rosary on Saturday, November 4, at the Jackson Place abortion clinic in Rockville. These people witnessed for our parish on St. Francis Day, part of the 40 Days for Life campaign to pray for mothers and babies at abortion clinics. We thank them for standing for the mothers and babies in testimony to the central Catholic social teaching: preserving the dignity of human life. For more information about the parish Respect Life Ministry, please contact Ministry Coordinator Lita Silva at litasilva4@gmail.com.

2023 ANNUAL MEMORIAL MASS

On Tuesday, November 21, Fr. John Dillon will celebrate a Memorial Mass for Knights of Columbus Montgomery Council 2323 to honor our deceased brother Knights, spouses, and family members. The Mass will be celebrated at 8 pm at the Father Cuddy Hall, 17001 Overhill Road in Derwood. Please plan to arrive a little early to allow for timely seating. After the ceremony, refreshments will be provided. Please plan to attend this important event and extend a warm invitation to all family and friends of the departed.

2023-24 RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROGRAM FOR KINDERGARTEN THROUGH GRADE 8



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 in-person today, Sunday, November 19, 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.

CONFIRMATION CANDIDATE SESSION: MONDAY, NOVEMBER 20

Confirmation candidates will meet next Monday, November 20, for Confirmation class from 6:45-8:30 pm in the Parish Center.

RE CLASS SCHEDULE AND THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY

There are no Religious Education classes on Monday, November 20, Tuesday, November 21, and Sunday, November 26. (Please note that classes will meet on Sunday, November 19, and Monday and Tuesday, November 27 and 28.)

CHRISTMAS STOCKING HELP LINE

Religious Education families are invited to support families served by Catholic Charities here in Montgomery County by donating \$25 gift cards for local department stores (e.g., Target) through our "RE Christmas Stocking Help Line." Starting next Sunday, families may choose to take one (or more) stockings, purchase a gift card, and return these to RE classes by December 10. Look for a letter with more information about this project given to students in RE classes.

KEEP CHRIST IN CHRISTMAS POSTER CONTEST

Knights of Columbus Montgomery Council #2323 is inviting Kindergarten through Grade 8 St. Francis Religious Education students to participate in the organization's international *Keep Christ in Christmas* poster contest. Full details can be found on the "Poster Judging Fact Sheet" and Entry Form distributed to students at RE classes. To participate, students are asked to submit their original, handmade 11"x17" poster and completed entry form no later than Tuesday, December 5, to Susan Anderson during religious education class sessions or to the parish office. For more information, contact me Susan Anderson at 301-258-9193.

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

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

Adoration is held on Fridays
in the **Rectory Chapel**
9:30 a.m. - 12 Noon.
All are welcome to attend.

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@sfdw.org.

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
- 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.

VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED TO HELP DECORATE CHRISTMAS WREATHS THAT WILL BE SOLD AT OUR CHRISTMAS TREE LOT

Crafters, designers, and Christmas decorators are all welcome for a night of holiday music and merriment on Friday, November 24, as we transform fresh wreaths into festive keepsakes to sell with the Christmas trees! Come join us at 6:30 pm in the Parish Center and please bring a pair of wire cutters. Children 10 and older are welcome to go with accompanying parent. For more information, please contact Carolyn Brauer, Carolyn_brauer@yahoo.com, Ministry Coordinator.

ST. MARTIN'S FOOD PANTRY SHORTAGES

It is anticipated that Thanksgiving distribution will be **500 families**.

Pasta - short 594 boxes
Pasta Sauce - short 678 bottles/cans
Macaroni & Cheese - short 590 boxes
Meals in a can - short 475 cans
Canned Soup - short 1100 cans
Oatmeal/Cereal - short 744 units
Canned Beans - short 550 cans
Canned Vegetables - short 715 cans
Canned Fruit—short 325 cans
Dried Rice & Beans - short 584 pounds
Tuna/Canned Meat/Canned Fish - short 400 cans

Baby Formula: Similac Blue & Similac Orange, and/or domestic or foreign equivalents/substitutes, Diapers Numbers 3 & 6, baby wipes.
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.

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL LEARNS OF TWO KEY ARCHDIOCESAN INITIATIVES

On October 26, Deacon Jim Datovech briefed the Parish Pastoral Council on St. Francis of Assisi Parish having recently been incorporated as its own incorporated entity, allowing the parish to expand its banking capabilities and enabling its assets to remain under local control.

The project is part of an archdiocesan-wide initiative for each parish to become its own incorporated entity. While the parish now has its own bylaws and board of directors, the daily operation of the parish by the pastor remains unchanged.

Under other business, Fr. John Dillon also discussed the development of an archdiocesan document, "Walking Together in Hope: Pastoral Planning for Evangelization," which will further develop the synodal process. He said he would be interested in using this document for pastoral planning at St. Francis.

Under other business, council members also learned:

- The New Neighbors Interfaith Alliance hosted a talk, "Sharing the Journey of Refugees," on November 8 in the church. Afghan refugees Mohammed and Somaia spoke to attendees about their escape from Afghanistan and resettlement in Montgomery County, with the help of NNIA.
- St. Jude Regional School, which St. Francis supports, is sponsoring a Holiday Sip and Shop on November 14 and a drama club production of "Shrek Jr."
- Attendees of the Christian Life Program graduated from the faith formation initiative.
- The Thanksgiving Ecumenical Service has been cancelled this year, because one of the pastors is on medical leave and another has retired.

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

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

www.StJudeRockville.org
<http://www.facebook.com/stjuderockvillemid>

Archdiocesan Tuition Assistance Program

The application window for tuition assistance will open on Monday, October 2, 2023. Application deadline for high schools: Friday, December 15, 2023. Application deadline for K-8: Friday, February 16, 2024. A Catholic education is a blessing that we want to make available to every family in our Archdiocese. We work hard to keep Catholic education as affordable as possible. We are committed to help you find the financial resources that you need. Follow the link!

<https://adwcatholicalschools.org/tuition-assistance/archdiocesan-tuition-assistance-program/>

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. St. Jude Thaddeus...Pray for us! To apply, email Jeanne Donatelli, Principal at jeanne.donatelli@stjuderockville.org.

COFFEE MORNING WITH MRS. DONATELLI & MRS. BALOG

November 21 8:00 - 9:00 am

Main Breezeway

ST. JUDE GIVING CAMPAIGN FOR THE PRINCIPAL SCHOLARSHIP

Let's work together to assist those students to continue or begin their Catholic education.

GOAL: \$15,000

Contact Mrs. Donatelli for more information

Jeanne.Donatelli@stjuderockville.org 301-916-7888, Ext 102

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-



SCAN ME

2023 ECUMENICAL THANKSGIVING SERVICE

Unfortunately this year there will not be a Thanksgiving Ecumenical Service with our Derwood neighboring congregations. Due to retirements and clergy staff changes our neighbors did not feel they could participate this year. We are hopeful next year we will be able to continue our longstanding tradition.

Anuncios del boletín del 19 noviembre de 2023:

El Consejo Pastoral Parroquial se entera de dos iniciativas clave de la Arquidiócesis

El 26 de octubre, el Diácono Jim Datovech informó al Consejo Pastoral Parroquial sobre la reciente incorporación de la Parroquia de San Francisco de Asís como una entidad corporativa, lo que permite a la parroquia ampliar sus capacidades bancarias y permitir que sus activos permanezcan bajo control local.

El proyecto es parte de una iniciativa arquidiocesana para que cada parroquia se convierta en su propia entidad corporativa. Si bien la parroquia ahora tiene sus propios estatutos y junta directiva, la operación diaria de la parroquia por parte del párroco permanece sin cambios.

En otros asuntos, el P. John Dillon también discutió el desarrollo de un documento arquidiocesano, "Caminando juntos en esperanza: planificación pastoral para la evangelización", que desarrollará aún más el proceso sinodal. Dijo que estaría interesado en usar este documento para la planificación pastoral en San Francisco de Asís.

En otros asuntos, los miembros del consejo también aprendieron:

- La Alianza Interreligiosa de Nuevos Vecinos organizó una charla, "Compartiendo el viaje de los refugiados", el 8 de noviembre en la iglesia. Los refugiados afganos Mohammed y Somaia hablaron con los asistentes sobre su huida de Afganistán y su reasentamiento en el condado de Montgomery, con la ayuda de NNIA.
- La Escuela Regional St. Jude, que St. Francis apoya, está patrocinando un Holiday Sip and Shop el 14 de noviembre y una producción del club de teatro de "Shrek Jr."
- Los asistentes al Programa de Vida Cristiana se graduaron de la iniciativa de formación en la fe.
- El Servicio Ecuménico de Acción de Gracias ha sido cancelado este año, porque uno de los pastores está con licencia médica y otro se ha jubilado.

Para leer las actas de las reuniones pasadas del Consejo Pastoral Parroquial, por favor vaya a <https://www.sfadw.org/pastoral-council-meeting-minutes>. Para obtener más información sobre el Consejo Pastoral Parroquial, comuníquese con el P. John al (301) 840-1407.

Por favor, responda a nuestra Petición del Ofertorio Parroquial A medida que hacemos una pausa para dar gracias en nuestras mesas de Acción de Gracias, se anima a todos los feligreses de San Francisco de Asís a participar en nuestra campaña de ofertorio parroquial Amén Generosidad. Por favor, devuelva la tarjeta de compromiso que le enviaron por correo a su casa o que recogió del bolsillo de la banca de la iglesia con su promesa de apoyar financieramente a nuestra parroquia en su operación fiscal y buenas obras ministeriales. También puede establecer o aumentar su donación financiera recurrente visitando nuestra página de Faith Direct en <https://membership.faithdirect.net/MD110>. ¡Recuerde que su generosidad ayuda a nuestra parroquia a avanzar en su misión! Para obtener más información, comuníquese con la Oficina Parroquial al (301) 840-1407.

Voluntarios, vengan a ayudar en la venta del árbol de Navidad de la parroquia, del 25 de noviembre al 10 de diciembre

Con el lote para árboles de Navidad en su punto, nuestra parroquia está esperando los 205 árboles de Navidad que llegarán el viernes 24 de noviembre para nuestra recaudación anual de fondos para las fiestas. Se necesitan muchos más voluntarios para descargar y estacar los árboles el 24 de noviembre y comenzar a venderlos el 25 de noviembre. Se invita a hombres y mujeres a inscribirse en tantos turnos como sea posible en <https://sfaderwood.flocknote.com/signup/142558>. **Esta inscripción en línea será el único medio para inscribirse este año.**

Algunos puntos:

- La venta de árboles de Navidad estará abierta a las 9 a.m. del sábado 25 de noviembre hasta el domingo 10 de diciembre, o cuando se agoten las existencias.
- Los 205 árboles que recibiremos son todo lo que el proveedor nos puede dar; Además, estamos haciendo negocios con un nuevo proveedor. Debido a la continua escasez de árboles, los recargos por flete y la inflación, los árboles serán más caros que el año pasado.
- También recibiremos 48 coronas para asegurarnos de que al final no tengamos un excedente. Por favor, ayúdenos a decorarlos a las 6:30 pm el viernes 24 de noviembre en el Centro Parroquial. Recuerde traer un par de cortadores de alambre, todas las demás decoraciones serán proporcionadas por los organizadores. Para obtener más información, comuníquese con la Coordinadora de Ministerios Carolyn Brauer al Carolyn_brauer@yahoo.com.

Planifique en consecuencia para obtener su árbol de Navidad y corona a principios de la temporada de ventas. Y no olvide inscribirse para ser voluntario en el lote de árboles: ¡Necesitamos su ayuda para que esta recaudación de fondos festiva de la parroquia sea un éxito! Para obtener más información, comuníquese con el Coordinador de Ministerios Brian Pettit al brianpettit@pettitcompanies.com.

¡Gracias a los participantes en el Día de San Francisco el 4 de noviembre!

Gracias a los feligreses de San Francisco de Asís Mike Carey, Sandra Herrera y David, así como al Director de Asuntos Sociales y Formación en la Fe para Adultos, Tony Bosnick, por venir a rezar el Rosario el sábado 4 de noviembre en la clínica de abortos Jackson Place en Rockville. Estas personas testificaron para nuestra parroquia en el Día de San Francisco, parte de la campaña 40 Días por la Vida para orar por las madres y los bebés en las clínicas de aborto. Les damos las gracias por defender a las madres y a los bebés en testimonio de la doctrina social católica central: preservar la dignidad de la vida humana. Para obtener más información sobre el Ministerio de Respeto a la Vida de la parroquia, comuníquese con la Coordinadora del Ministerio Lita Silva al litasilva4@gmail.com.

Feliz día de acción de gracias