

Mass Intentions

December 11 - December 17, 2023

Monday, 12/11	9:00 a.m.	John McCarthy
Tuesday, 12/12	9:00 a.m.	Reverend Howard Bleichner
Wednesday, 12/13	9:00 a.m.	Robert D. Ruiz
	7:30 p.m.	Yanusz Sieradzinski
Thursday, 12/14	9:00 a.m.	Don Smith
Friday, 12/15	9:00 a.m.	Fr. John M. Rizzato
Saturday, 12/9	5:00 p.m.	Girolamo Battista
Sunday, 12/10	8:00 a.m.	Joseph Michael Gardner
	9:30 a.m.	<i>Pro populo</i>
	11:15 a.m.	Angel Andrada
	1:00 p.m.	Margaret Weiss
	5:00 p.m.	Anne Naczi

+ In Memoriam Aeternam +

In your charity, please pray for the repose of the souls of Jeanne Crossland, sister of Fr. Lee Fangmeyer, Marge Palmer, aunt of Donna Zizzo, William Hayes, brother of Helen Hayes, Louise Geraldine Wadsworth, mother of Reverend Bill Wadsworth, Holy Ghost Parish.

Please pray for the sick... Reverend James Alco, Lucille Griswold, Diana Lacour Kistedio, Daniel McCormick, Matthew Mikula, Eduardo De Ausen, 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 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 December 10, 2023

Sunday:	Is 40:1-5, 9-11/Ps 85:9-10, 11-12, 13-14 (8)/2 Pt 3:8-14/Mk 1:1-8
Monday:	Is 35:1-10/Ps 85:9ab and 10, 11-12, 13-14/Lk 5:17-26
Tuesday:	Zec 2:14-17 or Rv 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab/Jdt 13:18bcde, 19/Lk 1:26-38 or Lk 1:39-47
Wednesday:	Is 40:25-31/Ps 103:1-2, 3-4, 8 and 10/Mt 11:28-30
Thursday:	Is 41:13-20/Ps 145:1 and 9, 10-11, 12-13ab/Mt 11:11-15
Friday:	Is 48:17-19/Ps 1:1-2, 3, 4 and 6/Mt 11:16-19
Saturday:	Sir 48:1-4, 9-11/Ps 80:2ac and 3b, 15-16, 18-19/Mt 17:9a, 10-13
Next Sunday:	Is 61:1-2a, 10-11/Lk 1:46-48, 49-50, 53-54 (Is 61:10b)/1 Thes 5:16-24/Jn 1:6-8, 19-28

PRAYER OF SAINT FRANCIS

Lord, make me an instrument of Your peace.

*Where there is hatred, let me sow love;
where there is injury, pardon; where
there is doubt,
faith; where there is despair, hope;
where*

*there is darkness, light; and where there
is sadness, joy.*

*O Divine Master, grant that I may not so
much seek*

*to be consoled as to console; to be
understood*

*as to understand; to be loved as to love;
for it is in giving*

*that we receive; it is in pardoning that
we are pardoned;*

*and it is in dying that we are born to
eternal life.*

Note from Fr. John:

I am still convalescing from my surgery. I hope to be writing the column in the near future. Thank you for your prayers.

THURSDAY EVENING CONFESSIONS

Fr. William will be hearing confessions on Thursday nights, December 14 and 21 in the St. Clare Chapel in the Rectory from 7pm - 9 pm.

EYEGLASSES, HEARING AIDS ARE NEEDED FOR DRIVE ORGANIZED BY EAGLE SCOUT CANDIDATE

Do you have any old eyeglasses or hearing aids in good condition lying around your home? Through December 23, please donate your old eyewear and hearing aids to a drive organized by Eagle Scout candidate Amber Cauchi of Scout Troop 472G. These items can be dropped off in the marked receptacle in the Gathering Space. For more information, please pick up a flyer in the Gathering Space or contact Director of Social Concerns and Adult Faith Formation Tony Bosnick at abosnick@sfadw.org.

QUESTION OF THE WEEK

What is the most difficult obstacle I face in preparing a way for Christ to come into my heart anew this Christmas? How can I remove this obstacle?

SPIRIT TREE GIFT CARD RETURN

PLEASE REMEMBER TO RETURN YOUR GIFT CARDS BY **DECEMBER 11**. YOU CAN PUT THEM IN AN ENVELOPE AND DROP THEM IN THE COLLECTION BASKET OR DROP THEM OFF AT THE PARISH OFFICE. **PLEASE BE SURE TO INCLUDE THE DOLLAR AMOUNT OF THE CARD.**

ADVENT SERVICES, EVENTS AND GIVING OPPORTUNITIES

Come celebrate Advent with us, as we prepare to commemorate the birth of Jesus Christ.

- **Christmas Tree sales**
From November 25-December 10 in front of the church, purchase fresh Christmas trees and wreaths in support of this annual parish fundraiser.
- **Advent wreath signup**
In the weeks leading up to Advent, sign up in the Gathering Space to light the Advent wreath in the church, as we await the birth of our Lord.
- **Advent devotional small group**
At 9:45 am on December 15 and 22 in the Kuehner Room, take part in a small group reflection based on Living Compass' booklet, "Practicing Wonder with Your Whole Heart, Mind, Soul and Strength."
- **Alternative Christmas gifts**
On December 9/10 and 16/17 in the Gathering Space, support mission-driven work by donating to various entities in amounts equal to services the groups provide its beneficiaries.
- **Advent Penance Service**
7 pm December 11 in the church. Come receive forgiveness this liturgical season.

RETIREMENT FUND FOR RELIGIOUS

Support a lifetime of service. Women and men religious have spent their lives serving others in prayer, ministry, education and care for those in need - usually for little or no pay. Today their religious communities do not have enough retirement savings. As they age, they require essential care and medications. Please support them by giving to the Retirement Fund for Religious. Your donation makes a difference for nearly 25,000 senior men and women religious. ***Please give generously.***

WHAT MASSES FULFILL WHICH OBLIGATION ON DECEMBER 24?

Dear Brothers and Sisters,
This year, the 4th Sunday of Advent and Christmas Eve fall on the same date, December 24. There may be some confusion regarding the Sunday Mass obligation and Christmas Mass observance. To clarify any possible confusion, please know the following:

Our parish's Masses that fulfill the Sunday Mass obligation are the following:

- On Saturday, December 23, at 5 pm
- On Sunday, December 24, at 8 am, 9:30 am, and 11:15 am in English

(Please note there is no Mass at either 1 pm in Spanish or 5 pm in English on Sunday, December 24).

Our parish's Masses that fulfill the Christmas observance are the following:

- On Sunday, December 24, the Masses at 4, 6, 8, and 10:30 pm in English, as well as the Midnight Mass in Spanish on that same night.
- On Monday, December 25, the Masses at 9:30 and 11:15 in English, as well as the Mass in Spanish at 1 pm.

(Please note there is no Mass at either 8 am or 5 pm on Monday, December 25).

ALTERNATIVE CHRISTMAS GIFTS CAN BE PURCHASED DECEMBER 9/10 AND 16/17

On the weekends of December 9/10 and 16/17, coordinators from the Alternative Christmas Gift Ministry will have cards in the Gathering Space parishioners can buy to give a gift of charitable service to a loved one instead of a material present. The program allows parishioners to buy cards benefitting the Haiti Medical Mission, St Ann's Center, L'Arche, So Others Might Eat (SOME), New Neighbors Interfaith Alliance, Montgomery Hospice, Little Sisters of the Poor, Heifer, and Upper Montgomery Assistance Network. By donating an amount equal to a service the charity offers its beneficiaries, you can truly offer someone the gift of service this Christmas. For more information, please contact Pat O'Connor at leafs20879@aol.com or Doris Chung at dichung14@gmail.com.

LEESBURG STRING QUARTET TO PERFORM AT HAITI BENEFIT CONCERT ON JANUARY 20, 2024

Music lovers, please save the date Saturday, January 20, 2024, for the next Haiti Benefit Concert, featuring the Leesburg String Quartet. More information will be forthcoming as the date gets closer. For more information, please contact St. Francis of Assisi Director of Music Janet Pate at sfadwmusic@gmail.com or Haiti Ministry Coordinator Dan Cardile at dancardile@yahoo.com.

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 next class meets in person next Sunday, December 17 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.

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." During RE class times, "Christmas Stockings" will hang on a clothesline in the Parish Center. 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.

MINISTRY OPPORTUNITY IN RELIGIOUS EDUCATION AT ST. FRANCIS,

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: sanderson@sfadw.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.

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

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (*continued*)

SACRAMENT OF PENANCE FOR RE STUDENTS

The students in grades 3 - 8 will have the opportunity to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation as part of their Religious Education classes in Advent. Catechists will review the Sacrament of Penance in advance, and we encourage parents to talk with their children about the Sacrament as well. Please note the date for your child's session and grade as shown below:

Sunday 9:20 Session:

Grade 5— Sun., Dec. 10
Grade 3— Sun., Dec. 17

Monday 4:45 Session:

Grades 3, 4 and 5 – Mon., Dec. 11

Monday 6:45 Session:

Grades 6, 7 & 8 – Mon., Dec. 11
(participating in the Parish Penance Service starting at 7:00 pm)

Tuesday 6:45 Session:

Grades 6, 7 & 8 – Tues., Dec. 12

2023 CONTRIBUTION STATEMENTS

To receive credit in 2023, your contributions must be dated December 31, 2023. If you are mailing a contribution, it must be received in the parish Office on or before Tuesday, January 2, 2024. As a reminder, the parish statement of contributions will not include your FAITHDIRECT contributions. You will receive a statement directly from FAITHDIRECT.

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.

PRAYERS FOR OUR SERVICE MEN/WOMEN

Please continue to pray for all those parishioners, family members and friends who are serving in the military services. We have a prayer list posted in the Gathering Space for those who are serving in these areas. Please help us to keep it current by letting us know of any parishioner who is currently deployed so we can add them, and also those who have returned so that we can remove their names. Please continue to keep all of our military personnel in your prayers.

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!***

ST. MARTIN'S FOOD PANTRY SHORTAGES

Pasta
Pasta Sauce
Macaroni & Cheese
Meals in a can
Canned Soup
Oatmeal/Cereal
Canned Beans
Canned Vegetables
Canned Fruit
Dried Rice & Beans
Tuna/Canned Meat/Canned Fish

Baby Formula: Similac Blue & Similac Orange, and/or domestic or foreign equivalents/substitutes, Diapers Numbers 1 & 3, baby wipes.

Paper Bags (Wegmans 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.

HOLIDAY BAZAAR RAFFLE WINNERS

Congratulations to the winners of our 2023 Holiday Bazaar Raffle:

1st Prize	N. Currier V. Arias
2nd Prize	R. Deleon
3rd Prize	N. Allen

Thank you to everyone who participated in the raffle!

MALE VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED AT THE GABRIEL PROJECT CLUSTER

Want to put your pro-life beliefs into action? Please join one of the four men's teams sponsored by the Gabriel Project Cluster, founded in 1996 to help struggling pregnant mothers in Montgomery County.

- **Crib Team:** Male volunteers meet an Angel Friend female volunteer at the client mother's home and assemble a new crib.
- **Transport Team:** Items needed by Angel Friend volunteers are transported between the northern and southern regions of Montgomery County.
- **Shed Team:** Donated items are usually picked up on Tuesday and Friday mornings and brought to a shed in Silver Spring.
- **Money-Counting Team:** Change for Life Baby Bottle collections are held at various parishes. A team of men coordinate counting and depositing the collected funds into the Cluster bank account.

Contact: Betty Baklarz at lbbaklarz@yahoo.com or visit our website for more information at www.gpmoco.org.

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

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

REGISTER NOW FOR 2024-2025 SCHOOL YEAR

Registration is open for all current families and opens **this Wednesday, November 29th** for new families! We are a PreK3-8th grade Catholic school. Come and witness a faith-filled school with high academic standards and happy students! MAP scores above the National Average! Tours are available by appointment. Please contact Ellen Donnelly at Ellen.Donnelly@StJudeRockville.org.

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

SAVE THE DATE

SJRCS OLYMPIC GALA (*Going for Gold*)

April 20, 2024

More information to come!

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

POOR BOX DONATIONS

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

Anuncios del boletín del 10 de diciembre de 2023:

Queridos hermanos y hermanas,

Este año, el cuarto domingo de Adviento y Nochebuena caen en la misma fecha, el 24 de diciembre. Puede haber cierta confusión con respecto a la obligación de la Misa dominical y la observancia de la Misa de Navidad. Para aclarar cualquier posible confusión, tenga en cuenta lo siguiente:

Las Misas de nuestra parroquia que cumplen con la obligación de la Misa dominical son las siguientes:

- El sábado, 23 de diciembre, a las 5 p.m.
- El domingo, 24 de diciembre, a las 8 am, 9:30 am y 11:15 am en inglés

(Tenga en cuenta que no habrá misa ni a la 1 pm en español, ni a las 5 pm en inglés, el domingo, 24 de diciembre).

Las Misas de nuestra parroquia que cumplen con la observancia navideña son las siguientes:

- El domingo, 24 de diciembre, las Misas a las 4, 6, 8 y 10:30 pm en inglés, así como la Misa de Medianoche en español esa misma noche.
 - El lunes, 25 de diciembre, Misas las misas a las 9:30 y 11:15 en inglés, así como la Misa en español a la 1 pm.
- (Tenga en cuenta que no habrá Misa ni a las 8 am, ni a las 5 pm, el lunes, 25 de diciembre).

Regalos alternativos para el árbol de Navidad se pueden comprar el 9/10 y 16/17 de diciembre

Los fines de semana del 9/10 y 16/17 de diciembre, los coordinadores del Ministerio Alternativo de Regalos de Navidad tendrán tarjetas en el Espacio de Reunión que los feligreses podrán comprar para dar un regalo de servicio caritativo a un ser querido en lugar de un regalo material. El programa permite a los feligreses comprar tarjetas que benefician a la Misión Médica de Haití, St Ann's Center, L'Arche, So Others Might Eat (SOME), New Neighbors Interfaith Alliance, Montgomery Hospice, Little Sisters of the Poor, Heifer y Upper Montgomery Assistance Network. Al donar una cantidad equivalente a un servicio que la organización benéfica ofrece a sus beneficiarios, realmente puedes ofrecerle a alguien el regalo del servicio esta Navidad. Para obtener más información, comuníquese con Pat O'Connor en leafs20879@aol.com ó Doris Chung en dicung14@gmail.com.

Se necesitan anteojos y audífonos para una colecta organizada por un candidato a Eagle Scout ¿Tiene anteojos viejos ó audífonos en buenas condiciones en su casa? Hasta el 23 de diciembre, por favor done sus anteojos y audífonos viejos a una colecta organizada por la candidata a Eagle Scout, Amber Cauchi, de la Tropa Scout 472G. Estos artículos se pueden dejar en el receptáculo marcado en el Espacio de Reunión. Para obtener más información, por favor recoja un folleto en el Espacio de Reunión ó comuníquese con el Director de Asuntos Sociales y Formación de Fe de Adultos, Tony Bosnick, en abosnick@sfdaw.org.

Servicios de Adviento, eventos y oportunidades de donaciones

¡Venga a celebrar el Adviento con nosotros, mientras nos preparamos para conmemorar el nacimiento de Jesucristo!

• **Venta de árboles de Navidad**

Del 25 de noviembre al 10 de diciembre, frente a la iglesia, compre árboles de Navidad frescos y coronas en apoyo a esta recaudación de fondos parroquial anual.

• **Iluminación de velas en la corona de Adviento**

Se invita a individuos, parejas y familias a encender la Corona de Adviento en una Misa de fin de semana durante el Adviento. La hoja de inscripción se encuentra en el Espacio de Reunión.

• **Grupo pequeño devocional de Adviento**

A las 9:45 am los días 1, 8, 15 y 22 de diciembre en la Sala Kuehner, participe en una reflexión en grupos pequeños basada en el folleto *Living Compass*, "Practicando el asombro con todo el corazón, la mente, el alma y la fuerza," ("Practicing Wonder with Your Whole Heart, Mind, Soul and Strength.") (en Inglés)

• **Regalos de Navidad alternativos**

Los días 9/10 y 16/17 de diciembre en el Espacio de Reunión, apoye el trabajo impulsado por la misión, donando a varias entidades en cantidades que equiparen a los servicios que los grupos brindan a sus beneficiarios.

• **Servicio de penitencia de Adviento**

7 pm, 11 de diciembre en la iglesia. Venga a recibir el perdón en este tiempo litúrgico.

Se necesitan voluntarios masculinos en el grupo del Proyecto Gabriel

¿Quiere poner en práctica sus creencias pro-vida? Por favor únase a uno de los cuatro equipos de hombres patrocinados por el Proyecto Gabriel, fundado en 1996 para ayudar a las madres embarazadas con dificultades en el condado de Montgomery.

Equipo de cuna: Los voluntarios masculinos se reúnen con una voluntaria Amiga Ángel (*Angel Friend*) en la casa de la madre del cliente y arman una cuna nueva.

Equipo de transporte: Los artículos que necesitan las voluntarias Amiga Ángel (*Angel Friend*) se transportan entre las regiones norte y sur del condado de Montgomery.

Equipo del cobertizo: Los artículos que son donados, generalmente se recogen los martes y viernes por la mañana y se llevan a un cobertizo en Silver Spring.

Equipo de Conteo de Dinero: Las colectas de Biberones de Cambio por Vida (*Change for Life Baby Bottle*) se llevan a cabo en varias parroquias. Un equipo de hombres coordina el conteo y el depósito de los fondos recaudados en la cuenta bancaria.

Contacto: Betty Baklarz en lbbaklarz@yahoo.com ó visite nuestro sitio web para obtener más información en www.gpmoco.org.