ST FRANCIS OF ASSISI, DERWOOD

BMass Intentions

January 8 - January 14, 2024

Monday, 1/8	9:00 a.m.	Lisa Devlin
Tuesday, 1/9	9:00 a.m.	Antoine Prophet
Wednesday, 1/10	9:00 a.m.	Bill, Julie, Tom Flanery
	7:30 p.m.	Michael Finzel (L)
Thursday, 1/11	9:00 a.m.	Serge Triau
Friday, 1/12	9:00 a.m.	Christine Vilgos-Mitchell
Saturday, 1/13	5:00 p.m.	Selwyn & Flavia De Souza
Sunday, 1/14	8:00 a.m.	Pro populo
	9:30 a.m.	Don Smith
	11:15 a.m.	Rosemarie Rippel
	1:00 p.m.	Fernando Nieto
	5:00 p.m.	Deceased Members of the
	1	Church/Roebuck Families

Please pray for the sick...Justin Hay, Bea Weiss, Laura Tseronis, 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 January 7, 2024

Sunday: Is 60:1-6/Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13 (see 11)/

Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6/Mt 2:1-12

Monday: Is 55:1-11/Is 12:2-3, 4bcd, 5-6 (3)/1 Jn 5:1-9/

Mk 1:7-11

Tuesday: 1 Sm 1:9-20/1 Sm 2:1, 4-5, 6-7, 8abcd/

Mk 1:21-28

Wednesday: 1 Sm 3:1-10, 19-20/Ps 40:2 and 5, 7-8a, 8b-9,

10/Mk 1:29-39

Thursday: 1 Sm 4:1-11/Ps 44:10-11, 14-15, 24-25/

Mk 1:40-45

Friday: 1 Sm 8:4-7, 10-22a/Ps 89:16-17, 18-19/

Mk 2:1-12

Saturday: 1 Sm 9:1-4, 17-19; 10:1a/Ps 21:2-3, 4-5, 6-7/

Mk 2:13-17

Next Sunday: 1 Sm 3:3b-10, 19/Ps 40:2, 4 7-8, 8-9, 10

(8a, 9a)/1 Cor 6:13c-15a, 17-20/Jn 1:35-42

THE MUSINGS OF THE PASTOR

I have been really struck by the words of the Holy Father in his "Urbi et Orbi" message on Christmas Day. "Urbi et Orbi" is a Latin phrase that means "to the City [of Rome] and to the World. The phrase refers to a papal address and apostolic blessing given on certain solemn occasions (such as Christmas).

I am going to present part of the address this week and the rest of it next week.

Dear Brothers and Sisters, Merry Christmas!

The eyes and the hearts of Christians throughout the world turn to Bethlehem; in those days, it is a place of sorrow and silence, it was there that a long-awaited message was first proclaimed: "To you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord" {Luke 2:11}. Those words spoken by the Angel in the heavens above Bethlehem are also spoken to us. We are full of hope and trust as we realize that the Lord has been born for us; that the eternal Word of the father, the infinite God, has made his home among us. He became flesh; he came "to dwell among us" (John 1:14). This is the good news that changed the course of history!

The message of Bethlehem is indeed "good news of great joy" (Luke 2:10). What kind of joy? Not the passing happiness of this world, not the glee of entertainment but a joy that is "great" because it makes *us* great. For today all of us, with all of our shortcomings, embrace the sure promise of an unprecedented gift: hope of being born for heaven. Yes, Jesus our brother has come to make his Father our Father; a small child called, he reveals to us the tender love of God, and much more. He, the Only-Begotten Son of the Father, gives us "power to become children of God" (John 1:12). This is a joy that consoles hearts, renews hope and bestows peace. It is the joy of the Holy Spirit: the joy born of being God's beloved sons and daughters.

Brothers and sisters, today in Bethlehem, amid the deep shadows covering the land, an undying flame has been lighted. Today the world's darkness has been overcome by the light of God, which "enlightens every man and woman" (John 1:9). Brothers and sisters, let us exalt in this gift of grace! Rejoice, you who have lost confidence in your certitudes, for you are not alone: Christ is born for you! Rejoice, you have abandoned all hope, for God offers you his outstretched hand; he does not point a finger at you, but offers you his little baby hand, in order to set you free from your fears, to relieve you of your burdens and to show you that, in his eyes, you are more valuable than anything else. Rejoice you who find no piece of heart, for the ancient prophecy of Isaiah has been fulfilled for your sake: "a child has been born for us, a son given to us, and he is named... Prince of Peace" (9: 6). Scripture reveals that this that his peace, his kingdom," will have no end" (9:7).

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

January 7, 2024

QUESTION OF THE WEEK

Have I had an epiphany, a sudden insight after an experience when I recognized an encounter with Christ? If I cannot recall one, can I imagine how it could happen?

WEDDING ANNIVERSARY MASS

This year Bishop Evelio Menjivar-Ayala will celebrate the Annual Wedding Anniversary Mass to Celebrate the Vocation of Marriage on Saturday, February 10, 2024, at 10:00 a.m. at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception. This celebration is to highlight the witness to the Catholic vocation of marriage and the beauty of God's plan for married life. Couples must register with the parish office by *Friday*, *January 26* to attend the Mass and/or to receive a certificate from Cardinal Wilton Gregory in honor of their anniversary year.

PLEASE DONATE WINTER OUTERWEAR IN GOOD CONDITION BY MONDAY, JANUARY 14

Do you have any gently used coats, hats, gloves, mittens, or scarves that are overcrowding your closets? If so, please donate them to a coat drive benefitting Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Washington that goes through Monday, January 15. Items in good condition can be left in the designated receptacle in the Gathering Space. For more information, please contact Director of Social Concerns and Adult Faith Formation Tony Bosnick at abosnick@sfadw.org.



ALTERNATIVE CHRISTMAS

Thank you for your generosity and support of the Alternative Christmas Gift Program. This year we collected \$7,476 to help our brothers and sisters locally, in Haiti and throughout the world. *Thank you!*

THE MUSINGS OF THE PASTOR (continued)

In the Scriptures, the Prince of Peace is opposed by the "Prince of this world" (John 12: 31), who, by sowing the seeds of death, plots against the Lord, the "lover of life" (cf. Wisdom 11: 26). We see this played out in Bethlehem, where the birth of the savior is followed by the slaughter of the innocents. How many innocents are being slaughtered in our world! In their mothers' wombs, in odysseys undertaken in desperation and in search of hope, in the lives of all those little ones whose childhood has been devastated by war. They are the little Jesuses of today, these little ones whose childhood has been devastated by war.

To be continued next week.

Father John

WELCOME to the Family of Christ!

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

Fernando & Sheila Ayala Carlos & Maria Villatoro

The following child was baptized during the month of December:

Elliot Robinson

COME TO THE MASS FOR ALL GOD'S CHILDREN ON JANUARY 7

Come join us at the Mass for All God's Children at the 5 pm Sunday Mass on Sunday, January 7. This special liturgy celebrates the gifts and contributions of persons with special needs, who fill nearly all liturgical roles at this Mass. There will be a light reception following the Mass in the Gathering Space. All are invited and welcome!

ON JANUARY 20, THE HAITI BENEFIT CONCERT FEATURES THE LEESBURG STRING QUARTET

Please join us for a night of beautiful music by attending the Haiti Benefit Concert at 7 pm Saturday, January 20 in the church. The Leesburg String Quartet will be giving a special performance at the event, which is sponsored by the St. Francis of Assisi Music Ministry. It will be followed by a reception in the Gathering Space. While the concert is free of charge, all donations are welcome and will benefit the Haiti Medical Mission. For more information, please contact St. Francis of Assisi Music Director Janet Pate at sfadwmusic@gmail.com or Haiti Ministry Coordinator Dan Cardile at dancardile@yahoo.com.

GIANT FOOD'S COMMUNITY BAG PROGRAM CAN YIELD DONATIONS FOR THE ST. VIN-CENT DE PAUL SOCIETY

Throughout the month of January, St. Francis of Assisi parishioners shopping at the Giant Food at 18250 Flower Hill Way can support the parish's St. Vincent de Paul Society while buying items their families need. Through Giant Food's Community Bag Program, every purchase from January 1-31 of a purple reusable Because You Care bag for \$2.50 will yield a \$1 donation to our St. Vincent de Paul Society. Let us see how many dollars can be raised for this charitable organization that helps and befriends the poor and vulnerable in our community! For more inforplease mation. Tony **Bosnick** contact osnick@sfadw.org.

BLOOD PRESSURE SCREENING

Blood pressure screening will be taking place in the St. Clare Room next weekend, January 13/14 after all Masses except Sunday 5 p.m..

LITTLE SISTERS OF THE POOR

The Little Sisters will be visiting St. Francis next weekend and asking for donations at the doors to the church after all Masses next weekend.



2023-24 RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROGRAM FOR KINDERGARTEN THROUGH GRADE 8

RE CLASS SCHEDULE REMINDERS

Religious Education classes meet this week, January 7, 8 & 9. Please note that Religious Education classes will not meet next week, Sunday, Monday, and Tuesday, January 14, 15 & 16, in honor of the Martin Luther King Day holiday.

PARENT MEETING FOR HOMESCHOOL OPTION RE

The Online Parent Meeting: Unit 3 Overview for families sharing in this year's homeschool religious education program will be from 1-2 pm today, Sunday, January 7. Families registered for the Homeschool option will receive an email with link to join.

FIRST RECONCILIATION PREP DAY SATURDAY, JANUARY 13

Children preparing to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation for the first time will attend a day of preparation on Saturday, January 13 from 9:00 am - 12:30 pm in the Parish Center (Snow date: January 20). Please pray for these children who will receive this Sacrament on Saturday, January 27.

CONFIRMATION CANDIDATE SESSION: TUESDAY, JANUARY 16

Confirmation candidates will meet on Tuesday, January 16, for Confirmation class from 6:45-8:30 p.m. in the Parish Center.

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.....

POOR BOX DONATIONS

The donations for next weekend will go to the *Shady Grove Pregnancy Center*. Thank you for your generosity.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (continued)

SNOW/EMERGENCY CANCELLATION POLICY

If Montgomery County Public Schools are closed for weather, and if schools are dismissed early, Religious Education classes are also cancelled. This applies to Sunday classes as well if Montgomery County Public Schools announces cancellation of weekend school activities.

Cancellation announcements will be posted:

- On the parish website: www.sfadw.org
- On the St. Francis Parish Facebook page: "St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church"
- On the Religious Education Office phone voicemail: 301-258-9193.

Whenever in doubt, please use your own judgment about local weather and driving conditions, and err on the side of safety when making decisions about bringing your child to class.

LAMB OF GOD CHARISMATIC PRAYER GROUP

Come Pray with us. We meet from 7:30 to 9:00 pm every Tuesday evening in the St. Clare Chapel in the Rectory. Our meeting starts with songs of praise and worship and moves into prayers of thanksgiving and intercession. After prayer time we read, discuss, and reflect on the scripture passages for the upcoming Sunday liturgy. This helps us to expand our knowledge and understanding of God's word for us today. For additional information please call the Parish Office, 301-840-1407. *All are welcome!*

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.

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@vahoo.com.

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 and 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.

May God bless you for whatever help you can provide.

WORLD WIDE MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER

Christ gave us a great gift of Himself on Christmas. He calls us to give of ourselves to everyone, especially our spouse. Attend a Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend and learn how to be the best gift you can be for your spouse. Sign up today to attend one of the upcoming Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekends on Mar 1-3, 2024 in COLLEGE PARK, MD and Oct 11-13, 2024 in COLLEGE PARK, MD. Early sign up is recommended. For more information visit our website at: https:// moments4marriage.org or contact us at applications@moments4marriage.org or 301-500-0871.

SINGLE CATHOLICS ARE INVITED TO AN **EPIPHANY PARTY**

ON JANUARY 13 IN THE ST. RAPHAEL GYM

Single Catholics, come to an Epiphany Party! The St. Catherine and St. Lawrence Society and St. Raphael Parish are co-sponsoring the 24th (almost) Annual Epiphany Party at 7 pm Saturday, January 13, 2024, in the St. Raphael's gymnasium, 1513 Dunster Road, in Rockville. Black tie optional, the event will feature wine, Ledo's lasagna, dancing, and speed dating. A three-tiered admission is available. By January 6, you can mail a \$22 check made out to the "St. Catherine Society" to 1590 Kimblewick Road, Rockville 20854; by January 8, you can pay \$24 online at https://www.paypal.com/biz/fund? id=AJLD5F4VY43NE; at the door, pay \$28 by cash, check or credit card.

EUCHARISTIC ADORATION

Adoration will be held on Friday in the Church 9:30 a.m. - 12:00 Noon All are welcome to attend.

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

www.St.JudeRockville.org http://www.facebook.com/stjuderockvillemd

REGISTER NOW FOR 2024-2025 SCHOOL YEAR

Registration is open for all current and new families! We are a PreK3-8th grade Catholic school. Come and witness a faithfilled 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 opened 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://adwcatholicschools.org/tuition-assistance/archdiocesantuition-assistance-program/

Thank you to Mrs. White for keeping Christ at the center of this season and preparing our Pre-K through 5th grade students for our Annual School Christmas Show, with beautiful singing, music, and the 5th grade's musical performance, "Miracle on Bethlehem Street"! Merry Christmas, everyone!

SAVE THE DATE

April 20, 2024 OLYMPIC GALA Going for Gold More information to come!

St. Jude Regional Catholic School wishes everyone a HAPPY NEW YEAR!

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 SCAN ME DeMare, johnd2323@comcast.net or 240-354-

6648. Vivat Jesus!



OUR LADY OF FATIMA

In honor of Our Lady of Fatima, 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 Saturday, January 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.

Anuncios del boletín del 7 de enero de 2024:

Ven a la Misa para Todos los Hijos de Dios el 7 de enero

Por favor únase a nosotros a la Misa para Todos los Hijos de Dios en la Misa dominical de las 5 pm el domingo, 7 de enero. Esta liturgia especial celebra los dones y contribuciones de las personas con necesidades especiales, quienes desempeñan casi todos los roles litúrgicos en esta Misa. Habrá una recepción ligera después de la Misa en el Espacio de Reunión. ¡Todos están invitados y bienvenidos!

Por favor done ropa de abrigo de invierno en buenas condiciones antes del lunes, 15 de enero

¿Tiene abrigos, gorros, guantes, guantes manoplas ó bufandas poco usados que abarrotan sus armarios? Si es así, dónelos a una colecta de abrigos a beneficio de Caridades Católicas de la Arquidiócesis de Washington que se extenderá hasta el lunes, 15 de enero. Los artículos en buenas condiciones se pueden dejar en el receptáculo designado en el Espacio de Reunión. Para obtener más información, comuníquese con el Director de Asuntos Sociales y Formación de Fe de Adultos, Tony Bosnick, en abosnick@sfadw.org.

El 20 de enero, el concierto benéfico de Haití presenta al Cuarteto de Cuerdas de Leesburg

Únase a nosotros para una noche de música hermosa asistiendo al concierto benéfico de Haití a las 7 pm el sábado, 20 de enero en la iglesia. El Cuarteto de Cuerdas de Leesburg (Leesburg String Quartet) ofrecerá una actuación especial en el evento, patrocinado por el Ministerio de Música de San Francisco de Asís. Le seguirá una recepción en el Espacio de Reunión. Si bien el concierto es gratuito, todas las donaciones son bienvenidas y beneficiarán a la Misión Médica de Haití. Para obtener más información, comuníquese con la directora musical de San Francisco de Asís, Janet Pate, en sfadwmusic@gmail.com o con el coordinador del Ministerio de Haití, Dan Cardile, en dancardile@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.

El programa de bolsas comunitarias de Giant Food puede generar donaciones para la Sociedad de San Vicente de Paúl

Durante todo el mes de enero, los feligreses de San Francisco de Asís que compran en Giant Food en 18250 Flower Hill Way pueden apoyar a la Sociedad de San Vicente de Paúl de la parroquia mientras compran los artículos que sus familias necesitan. A través del Programa de Bolsas Comunitarias de Giant Food, cada compra del 1 al 31 de enero de una bolsa morada reutilizable Porque Te Importa por \$2.50 generará una donación de \$1 a nuestra Sociedad de San Vicente de Paúl. ¡Veamos cuántos dólares se pueden recaudar para esta organización benéfica que ayuda y se hace amiga de los pobres y vulnerables de nuestra comunidad! Para obtener más información, comuníquese con el Director de Asuntos Sociales y Formación de Fe de Adultos, Tony Bosnick, en abosnick@sfadw.org.

Los católicos solteros están invitados a una fiesta de Epifanía el 13 de enero en el gimnasio de la parroquia St. Raphael

¡Católicos solteros, vengan a una fiesta de Reyes! La Sociedad St. Catherine y St. Lawrence y la Parroquia St. Raphael copatrocinan la 24^{ava} (casi) Fiesta Anual de Epifanía a las 7 pm del sábado, 13 de enero de 2024, en el gimnasio St. Raphael, 1513 Dunster Road, en Rockville. Corbata negra opcional, el evento contará con vino, lasaña de Ledo, baile y citas rápidas. Está disponible una entrada a tres niveles. Antes del 6 de enero, puede enviar por correo un cheque de \$22 a nombre de "St. Catherine Society" a 1590 Kimblewick Road, Rockville 20854; antes del 8 de enero, puede pagar \$24 en línea en https://www.paypal.com/biz/fund?id=AJLD5F4VY43NE; en la puerta, paga \$28 en efectivo, cheque ó tarjeta de crédito.

Charla Informativa Sobre El Proceso de Nulidad Matrimonia

Domingo 28 de enero del 2024

Horario: 3:00-4:30pm

Dónde: San Martín de Tours, Salón Parroquial

En este evento GRATUITO, la Dra. Sofia Markovich, S.T.L., J.C.D., Secretaria para Asuntos Canónicos y Jueza Metropolitana de Tribunal Metropolitano del Arquidiócesis Católica Romana de Washington responderá: ¿Qué es una anulación? ¿Cuáles son los motivos para declarar un matrimonio nulo? ¿Cuál es el proceso para determinar la nulidad del matrimonio? ¿Cuánto tiempo se tarda; cuánto cuesta; quién puede ayudar? ¿A cuál Tribunal puedo presentar mi caso? ¿Cuándo se puede programar un futuro matrimonio? Habrá tiempo para preguntas y respuestas. Organizado por la Oficina de Vida Familiar y el Tribunal Metropolitano. PARA INSCRIBIRSE:https://

<u>procesodenulidad2024.eventbrite.com</u>. Para obtener más información Oficina de Vida Familiar: 301-853-4546 o flm@adw.org.