

ST FRANCIS OF ASSISI, DERWOOD

Mass Intentions

August 25 - August 31, 2025

Monday, 8/25	9:00 a.m.	George Adkins
Tuesday, 8/26	9:00 a.m.	Deacon William Nickerson
Wednesday, 8/27	9:00 a.m.	Reverend Donald Worch
	7:30 p.m.	Jeffrey Loberiza Chatterjie
Thursday, 8/28	9:00 a.m.	Rev. William Brailsford
Friday, 8/29	9:00 a.m.	Mina & John (L)
Saturday, 8/30	5:00 p.m.	<i>Pro populo</i>
Sunday, 8/31	8:00 a.m.	Vincent Treacy
	9:30 a.m.	Erlinda Quemuel
	11:15 a.m.	Menchita Salcedo
	1:00 p.m.	Romulo Munos Surito
	5:00 p.m.	Wanda Fangmeyer

+ In Memoriam Aeternam +

In your charity, please pray for the repose of the souls of Rizalino Zamora and Sandra Husko.

Please pray for the sick....Tom Hoffman, Ryan Michael Maguire, Paul McKenna, Marlene Russo, Elsa O'Campo, Romana Gomes, Allen Kay, Evelyn Roebuck, Virginia Harts-wick, George Beall, Dee Comly, Richard Yeast, Joan Duden-hoeffer, Virginia Kingkeo, Diana M. Lacour Kustedjo, Marie C. Williams, Tom Breece, Deacon James McCann, Tristan Olin-Fixico, Patricia McGowan, Christine Degen, Nicole Beh-rus-Weiss, Mark Patterson, Michael Waple, Debra Price, Bar-bara Schmidt, Angelica Santos, Allison Brauer, Frank Knorr, Allan Degen, Bob Jones, Sandra Kimball, 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 August 24, 2025

Sunday:	Is 66:18-21/Ps 117:1, 2 (Mk 16:15)/Heb 12:5-7, 11-13/Lk 13:22-30
Monday:	1 Thes 1:1-5, 8b-10/Ps 149:1b-2, 3-4, 5-6a and 9b/Mt 23:13-22
Tuesday:	1 Thes 2:1-8/Ps 139:1-3, 4-6/Mt 23:23-26
Wednesday:	1 Thes 2:9-13/Ps 139:7-8, 9-10, 11-12ab/ Mt 23:27-32
Thursday:	1 Thes 3:7-13/Ps 128:1-2, 4-5/Mt 24:42-51
Friday:	1 Thes 4:1-8 (429)/Ps 97:1 and 2b, 5-6, 10, 11-12/Mk 6:17-29
Saturday:	1 Thes 4:9-11/Ps 98:1, 7-8, 9/Mt 25:14-30
Next Sunday:	Sir 3:17-18, 20, 28-29/Ps 15:2-3, 3-4, 4-5 (1a)/Heb 12:18-19, 22-24a/Lk 14:1, 7-14

THE MUSINGS OF THE PASTOR

The years from 1936-1939 were very difficult ones for the Catholic Church in Spain. During these years of the Span-ish Civil War more than 7,000 priests, friars, and religious sisters were martyred. In addition, over 3,500 lay persons were put to death for the cause of Christ. Besides Blessed Anselm Polanco, O.S.A., who was martyred in 1939, six groups of Augustinian friars totaling 98 persons, gave their lives for the cause of Christ. Here are the six groups:

- Sixty-five friars from the Monastery of El Escorial, Madrid
- Ten friars from the Seminary at Udés, Cuenca
- Six friars from the schools in Santander
- Three friars from the Augustinian house in Gijón, Asturias
- Four friars from Augustinian community in Málaga
- Ten mostly elderly or infirm friars residing at the infirmary in Caudete, Albacete

These 98 Augustinians were a diverse group: young and old, professors and seminarians. Preachers and manual la-borers. All were united in their unwavering faith. Not even the prospect of a cruel death could induce them to abandon our Lord Jesus Christ.

During the nights of November 28 and 30, 1936, sixty-five friars from the community of El Escorial were "tried" and convicted by a sham court of being friars. All of them af-firmed they were Augustinian friars from El Escorial Mon-astery. They refused to deny their Christian faith or coop-erate with the atrocities of those who were persecuting the Church. The friars were tied together, loaded onto trucks and taken to Paracuellos de Jarama, where they were shot to death.

The process of beatification and canonization of the Augus-tinian martyrs were begun at various times between 1950 and 1964. Diocesan investigations were concluded between 1955 and 1967. The Congregation for the Saints combined the causes of the several groups of martyrs into a unified cause in 1990 and officially recognized the validity of the united cause in 1991.

The Ordinary Historical Meeting of the Congregation of Saints approved their designation as martyrs on March 11, 2005. On December 19, 2006, the Plenary Meeting of Car-dinals and Bishops of the Congregation gave additional approval of their beatification and sent their recommenda-tion to Pope Benedict XVI. The Holy Father confirmed their martyrdom on June 1, 2007. The Augustinian mar-tyrs, along with some 400 others, including lay Catholics, members of other religious institutes, priests, and bishops, who gave their lives for Christ, were beatified on October 29, 2007.

I obtained the information for this article from the website maintained by the Midwest province of the Augustinian friars.

Until next week,
Fr. John

QUESTION OF THE WEEK

What must I do to grow in the discipline of being a good disciple of the Lord? What can strengthen my "drooping hands and weak knees"? (Hebrews 12:12)



MORE OPTIONS FOR WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

Are you looking for a supportive community of Catholic women? Walking With Purpose Bible studies combine personal study, small group discussions, and gatherings for video talks. Please consider joining us.

- An evening Bible study opportunity begins at 7 pm Thursday, September 11. Using the book, "Ordering Your Priorities," this eight-week, practical Bible study will help you put the most important things first. We'll begin by paying attention to the One who made us, because He can best tell us what we need for our lives to run well.
- A second morning study begins from 10:15-11:45 am Thursday, October 9. Using the book, "Touching the Divine," this group will learn about divine qualities of Jesus revealed in the Gospel of John. We will meet throughout the school year. Six of the gatherings are for video talks that require no home preparation. In addition, *we only meet twice in November and once in December to allow plenty of time to prepare for the holidays.* Just come as often as you can!
- Conducted in Spanish, a third group will meet from 11:15 am-12:45 pm September 14, 21, 28 and October 12, 19, 26. We'll learn about God's unconditional love using the book, "Viviendo en el amor del Padre."

Order your book and learn more at walkingwithpurpose.com. Questions? Contact Lita (litasilva4@gmail.com) or Eileen (ehaleygrams@gmail.com).

In addition, Walking with Purpose developed a program for young women searching for answers to life's biggest questions.

- The Sisters of Strength program for high school girls will meet from 4-4:45 pm in the Kuehner Room on the following Sundays: September 21, October 5, October 19, November 2, November 16 and December 14. As the girls are introduced to the Bible in relevant and fresh ways, they'll grow in their ability to make good friends, recognize who they are in Christ, and discover God's purpose for their lives.

For more information on this study for high school girls, contact the St. Francis Religious Education Office at sfareligioused@sfadw.org or at (301) 258-9193.



As Catholics, we are called to be both intercessors and evangelizers to all those around us—family, friends, and neighbors. Embrace the gift you have of offering your prayers and your faith witness by inviting others to our Order of Christian Initiation of Adults. Led by our dedicated OCIA teams, the OCIA program is for those interested in being baptized, becoming Catholic, or completing their Sacraments of Initiation (Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist).

St. Francis of Assisi Parish offers two program tracks – one for English speakers and one for Spanish speakers. On Tuesday, September 16, Spanish speakers curious about our faith will begin meeting in small groups in the Rectory's Youth Room, while English speakers will begin exploring our Catholic faith on Wednesday, September 17, in the Kuehner Room.

Over a 10-month period, the OCIA teams will meet with interested persons to help facilitate discussions and answer questions about the Catholic faith. If these participants commit to their journey of faith, they will be welcomed next spring as full members of the Church at the Easter Vigil. For more information, please contact Fr. Grzegorz Okulewicz at gokulewicz@sfadw.org about OCIA in Spanish or Director of Social Concerns and Adult Faith Formation Tony Bosnick at abosnick@sfadw.org about OCIA in English.

JOIN THE ADULT CHOIR

Singers (high school aged and older) are invited to join the St. Francis Choir. Thursday evening rehearsals begin in late August, and the choir sings regularly at the 9:30 Mass from September through early June. We sing a variety of four-part choral literature, ranging in style from Renaissance motets to arrangements of spirituals. Music reading skills, while helpful, are not a requirement! Please contact Janet Pate for more information at sfadwmusic@gmail.com or call the Parish Office at (301) 840-1407.

POOR BOX DONATIONS

The donations for next weekend will go to *Olney Help*. Thank you for your generosity!

LAMB OF GOD CHARISMATIC PRAYER GROUP

Come Pray with us. - All are welcome!

We meet from 7:30 to 9:00 pm Tuesday evening in the St. Clare Chapel in the Rectory. We will meet August 26. 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.



2025-26 RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROGRAM

**SAVE BY REGISTERING NOW FOR
2025-26 RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CLASSES**

**Please be sure to return your registration no later than
September 1 so that we can be ready to welcome your
child as our program begins!**

We look forward to the continuing participation of all parish
religious education families,
and we are eager to welcome new families.
Please share program information with family, friends, and
neighbors!

Our parish offers families a choice of two options for
religious education:

Option 1: “Classroom model” offering in-person classes
taught by volunteer catechists and classroom aides:

- **Elementary (Kindergarten-Grade 5)** classes offered at two session times: Sunday 9:20-10:35 am and Monday 4:45-6:00 pm. Classes begin September 14 and 15.
- **Middle School (Grade 6, 7 & 8)** classes with students attending weekly. Two session times will be offered: Monday 6:45-8:00 pm and Tuesday 6:45-8:00 pm. Classes begin September 15 and 16.
- **Classes for children and youth with special needs** meeting on Sunday afternoons 3:30-4:30 pm (in-person or online). Classes will begin in September.

Option 2: “Homeschool model” offering parents the opportunity to teach their children at home with textbook resources and support provided by the parish, including online parent meetings and additional events (in-person and online) for students and families. Our program will kick-off in mid-September.

Registration forms and additional information can be found on the parish website at: <https://sfadw.org/children-grades-pre-k-8>. Completed forms can be mailed to the parish, dropped off in person at the Rectory Office (Monday-Friday, 8 am-4 pm), or returned as digital copies via email to sfareligioused@sfadw.org.

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

As we prepare for the start of the 2025-26 Religious Education program, please consider whether you can serve as a catechist for our children and young people. If you would like to learn more about this important ministry, please contact Susan Anderson, Director of Religious Education, at 301-258-9193.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (*continued*)

Registering for Sacramental Preparation

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

Families requesting sacramental preparation for their children 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 next year.

REGISTRATION OPEN

AT ST. JUDE REGIONAL CATHOLIC SCHOOL

We are currently enrolling for the upcoming school year, with limited openings available in Grades 3, 5, and 6 grade. St. Jude is built on the pillars of Faith, Unity, and Educational Excellence. We look forward to welcoming your family to our community! To learn more or to schedule a tour, please contact Principal Jeanne Donatelli (301) 946-7888 or e-mail Jeanne.Donatelli@stjuderockille.org.

ENCOUNTER SCHOOL OF MINISTRY CLASSES BEGIN THIS SEPTEMBER

Hungry for More?

Do you long to know God more deeply and see His power at work in your daily life? St. John Paul II called the Church to a New Evangelization—a bold return to mission, holiness, and the power of the Holy Spirit. **The Encounter School of Ministry – DC Campus exists to answer that call.** Rooted in the heart of the Church, Encounter equips Catholics to live from their true identity, be empowered by the Holy Spirit, and bring healing, hope, and the Gospel message into everyday life. This dynamic two-year Catholic ministry school meets Tuesday evenings from 6–9 PM, beginning September 9, 2025 at Mother of God School in Gaithersburg, MD. Come be transformed—and be part of transforming the world. Learn more at encounterschool.org/dc



Back to School
GOOD LUCK TO ALL
ST. FRANCIS STUDENTS
HAVE A GREAT YEAR!

ST. MARTIN'S FOOD PANTRY SHORTAGES

Canned Pasta w/meat
(Ravioli, Lasagna, Spaghetti w/meatballs)
Canned Fruit (375 cans needed)
Canned Beans (15 oz) Red-Black-Cannellini-Baked
(Need per week is 375 cans)
Soup –Chicken Related (15 oz)
Canned Tuna, Chicken, Salmon (5 oz)
Boxes of Pasta (1 lb boxes/packages)

Diapers No. 5 & 6

Adult diapers size Large only

Paper Bags (Wegmans or Trader Joe size or similar).
Plastic Newspaper or Grocery Bags. Plastic egg cartons
are also needed.

Please place donations in the St. Martin's Food Pantry Bin
in the Gathering Space or the Rectory front porch.

*Thank you for your support-your donations supported
375 families this past week. God Bless You!*



**Knights of
Columbus**

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS 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 more information please contact
Membership Director, John DeMare,
johnd2323@comcast.net or 240-354-6648.



SCAN ME

HELP FOR MARRIAGES IN TROUBLE

Is your marriage reaching a crossroads? Are you looking
for a way to resolve long-held differences? The
Retrouvaille Program is for married couples facing diffi-
cult challenges in their relationship. It is a Christian mari-
riage program, Catholic in origin, in which couples of all
faiths or no faith background are encouraged to attend. It
can help you learn the tools of healthy communication,
build intimacy, and heal. For confidential information
about or to register for the weekend on August 29-31,
2025, please visit www.HelpOurMarriage.org, call (443)
400-7017, or e-mail 3015@HelpOurMarriage.org. There
is hope!

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.

AUGUST 2025 CALENDAR

Aug 24	6:00 pm	Datovech Reception (GS)
Aug 25	7:30 pm	Haiti Committee Mtg (Virtual)
Aug 28	7:00 pm	Choir (CH)
	7:30 pm	SVDP Mtg (KR)
Aug 29	9:30 am	Adoration (CH)



EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

Adoration is held on Fridays
in the **CHURCH**.

9:30 a.m. - 12:00 Noon

All are welcome to attend.

BACK TO SCHOOL CELEBRATION

Montgomery Council #2323 will host a
Celebrate Back to School
Family Night Cookout
September 5th.

Enjoy an Evening with Family and Friends

All are welcome

6:30 to 9:00 pm

Tickets will be sold at the door

Payment by Credit Card Available

\$30 for Families, \$12 for individuals,

Free for children 7 and under

Dinner includes

Pulled Pork Bar-B-Que, Hot Dogs, Hamburgers,

Mac & Cheese, Baked Beans, French Fries,

and Beer, Wine and Soft Drinks

Games and activities available

Father Cuddy Hall, 17001 Overhill Rd.,

Derwood, MD.

Follow us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/kofc2323

for the families of

St. Mary's, St. Martin's and St. Francis.

KOC #11024 MOTHER SETON CASH BINGO

FRIDAY, AUGUST 29th, 2025 Doors open - 6:00 pm,
Bingo - 7:00 pm. Funds raised support the seminarians.
TICKET: \$40.00 Mother Seton Parish, 19951 Father Hur-
ley Blvd, Germantown, MD 20874. "Specials" Bingo
games 50-50 Cash Raffles Rips & Tips Add Ons: (Buy
tickets at Event). Over \$1000 in CASH prizes *Includes
door prize raffle, regular bingo games, snacks, water.
Must be 18 or older to attend. No alcohol allowed per
Montgomery County MD law. Contact: Christopher
Dominic 405-740-2883 chrisandeep18@gmail.com.

REMEMBERING OUR SERVICE MEN & WOMEN

Please continue to pray for all those parishioners, family
members and friends who are serving in the military ser-
vices. 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 pa-
rishioner who is currently deployed so we can add them,
and also those who have returned so that we can remove
their names.

Anuncios del Boletín para el 24 de agosto de 2025:



Use sus dones de intercesión y evangelización para invitar a otros a OICA

Como católicos, estamos llamados a ser intercesores y evangelizadores para todos los que nos rodean-familia, amigos y vecinos. Acoja el don que tiene de ofrecer sus oraciones y su testimonio de fe invitando a otros a nuestra Orden de Iniciación Cristiana de Adultos. Dirigido por nuestros dedicados equipos de OICA, el programa OICA es para aquellos interesados en bautizarse, convertirse al catolicismo o completar los sacramentos de iniciación (Bautismo, Confirmación y Eucaristía).

La Parroquia de San Francisco de Asís ofrece dos modalidades: una para angloparlantes y otra para hispanohablantes. El martes, 16 de septiembre, los hispanohablantes interesados en nuestra fe se reunirán en grupos pequeños en la Sala de Jóvenes de la Rectoría, mientras que los angloparlantes comenzarán a explorar nuestra fe católica el miércoles, 17 de septiembre en la Sala Kuehner.

Durante 10 meses, los equipos de OICA se reunirán con las personas interesadas para facilitar las conversaciones y responder preguntas sobre la fe católica. Si estos participantes se comprometen con su camino de fe, serán bienvenidos la próxima primavera como miembros de pleno derecho de la Iglesia en la Vigilia Pascual. Para más información, por favor, contacten al P. Grzegorz Okulewicz en gokulewicz@sfadw.org sobre OICA en español o el Director de Asuntos Sociales y Formación en la Fe de Adultos Tony Bosnick en abosnick@sfadw.org sobre OICA en inglés.

¡Inscripciones abiertas en la Escuela Católica Regional St. Jude!

Actualmente nos estamos inscribiendo para el próximo año escolar, con vacantes limitadas disponibles en los grados 3, 5 y 6º grado. St. Jude está construido sobre los pilares de la fe, la unidad y la excelencia educativa. ¡Esperamos dar la bienvenida a su familia a nuestra comunidad! Para obtener más información o programar un recorrido, llame a la directora Jeanne Donatelli (301) 946-7888 o envíe un correo electrónico a Jeanne.Donatelli@stjuderockille.org.

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.



¿Buscas una comunidad de apoyo para mujeres católicas? Los estudios bíblicos de Caminando con Propósito combinan estudio personal, conversaciones en grupos pequeños y reuniones para videoconferencias. Por favor, considera unirse a nosotras.

- Un estudio bíblico vespertino comienza a las 7 p. m. el jueves, 11 de septiembre. Utilizando el libro "Ordenando tus Prioridades", este estudio bíblico práctico de ocho semanas te ayudará a priorizar lo más importante. Comenzaremos prestando atención a Aquél que nos creó, porque Él es quien mejor nos puede decir sobre lo que necesitamos para que nuestras vidas caminen bien.
- Un segundo estudio matutino comienza de 10:15 a 11:45 a. m. el jueves, 9 de octubre. Utilizando el libro "Tocando lo Divino", este grupo aprenderá sobre las cualidades divinas de Jesús reveladas en el Evangelio de Juan. Nos reuniremos durante el año escolar. Seis de las reuniones son para videoconferencias que no requieren preparación en casa. Además, *solo nos reunimos dos veces en noviembre y una en diciembre para tener tiempo suficiente para prepararnos para las fiestas*. ¡Vengan tan a menudo como puedan!
- Un tercer grupo, impartido en español, se reunirá de 11:15 a. m. a 12:45 p. m. los días 14, 21 y 28 de septiembre, y 12, 19 y 26 de octubre. Aprenderemos sobre el amor incondicional de Dios usando el libro "Viviendo en el amor del Padre".

Pida su libro y aprenda más en walkingwithpurpose.com.
¿Preguntas? Contacte a Lita (litasilva4@gmail.com) o a Eileen (ehaleygrams@gmail.com).

Además, Caminando con Propósito desarrolló un programa para mujeres jóvenes que buscan respuestas a las preguntas más importantes de la vida. El programa Hermanas de la Fuerza para alumnas de secundaria se reunirá de 4:00 a 4:45 p. m. en el Salón Kuehner los siguientes domingos: 21 de septiembre, 5 de octubre, 19 de octubre, 2 de noviembre, 16 de noviembre y 14 de diciembre. A medida que las alumnas se familiarizan con la Biblia de forma relevante y novedosa, desarrollarán su capacidad para hacer buenas amistades, reconocer su identidad en Cristo y descubrir el propósito de Dios para sus vidas.

Para más información sobre este estudio para alumnas de secundaria, contacten con la Oficina de Educación Religiosa de San Francisco en sfareligioused@sfadw.org o al (301) 258-9193.