

ST FRANCIS OF ASSISI, DERWOOD

Mass Intentions

September 8 - September 14, 2025

Monday, 9/8	9:00 a.m.	Xavier Joseph
Tuesday, 9/9	9:00 a.m.	Mark Reyes
Wednesday, 9/10	9:00 a.m.	Gabriel Mantilla
	7:30 p.m.	Alex O'Connor
Thursday, 9/11	9:00 a.m.	Rev. William Brailsford
Friday, 9/12	9:00 a.m.	Gaby & Rod O'Connor
Saturday, 9/13	5:00 p.m.	Cyrus Manabat
Sunday, 9/14	8:00 a.m.	Frances Layo
	9:30 a.m.	Don & Peg Smith
	11:15 a.m.	<i>Pro populo</i>
	1:00 p.m.	Tony Hernandez
	5:00 p.m.	Wanda Fangmeyer

+ In Memoriam Aeternam +

In your charity, please pray for the repose of the soul of Alfreda Studniewski, mother of Reverend Gary Studniewski.

Please pray for the sick.... Emmy, Tom Hoffman, Ryan Michael Maguire, Allen Kay, Evelyn Roebuck, Virginia Hartswick, George Beall, Dee Comly, Richard Yeast, Joan Dudenhoeffer, Virginia Kingkeo, Diana M. Lacour Kustedjo, Marie C. Williams, Tom Breece, Deacon James McCann, Tristan Olin-Fixico, Patricia McGowan, Christine Degen, Nicole Behrus-Weiss, Mark Patterson, Michael Waple, Debra Price, Barbara 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 September 7, 2025

Sunday:	Wis 9:13-18b/Ps 90:3-4, 5-6, 12-13, 14-17 (1)/ Phlm 9-10, 12-17/Lk 14:25-33
Monday:	Mi 5:1-4a or Rom 8:28-30/Ps 13:6ab, 6c/ Mt 1:1-16, 18-23 or 1:18-23
Tuesday:	Col 2:6-15/Ps 62:6-7, 9/Lk 6:12-19
Wednesday:	Col 3:1-11/Ps 145:2-3, 10-11, 12-13ab/ Lk 6:20-26
Thursday:	Col 3:12-17/Ps 150:1b-2, 3-4, 5-6/Lk 6:27-38
Friday:	1 Tm 1:1-2, 12-14/Ps 16:1b-2a and 5, 7-8, 11/ Lk 6:39-42
Saturday:	1 Tm 1:15-17/Ps 113:1b-2, 3-4, 5a and 6-7/ Lk 6:43-49
Next Sunday:	Nm 21:4b-9/Ps 78:1bc-2, 34-35, 36-37, 38/ Phil 2:6-11/Jn 3:13-17

THE MUSINGS OF THE PASTOR

Last week I devoted my column to St. Alypius, a close friend and associate of St. Augustine. This week I am devoting this column to another one of Augustine's close friends, St. Possidius, the first biographer of Augustine's. Possidius became a member of Augustine's first monastic community in Hippo (modern day Annaba, Algeria). Both Saints Alypius and Possidius are remembered on May 16 on the Augustinian liturgical calendar.

Possidius was named Bishop of Calama in Numidia (modern day Guelma, Algeria), where he faced opposition from the Donatists (Donatists were followers of Donatus Magnus, a schismatic bishop of Carthage in the mid-fourth century. They believed that the validity of the sacrament depended on the personal virtue of the celebrant. Many North Africans shared this view at the time of Augustine.) Possidius nearly escaped being murdered when Donatist extremists set fire to a house where he had been visiting. Twice he went to Italy to defend the rights of the African Church. He was present at the Councils in Carthage in 403 and 407, and was chosen along with Alypius and Augustine to represent the Catholic Bishops at a famous meeting with the Donatists in Carthage in 411. He also took part in the Councils of Milevi (416) and Carthage (419) which were devoted to challenges caused by the Donatists.

When Calama was conquered by Vandal invaders in 429, Possidius took refuge with Augustine inside the walls of Hippo and was with Augustine when Augustine died in 430. Possidius returned to Calma but in 437 was exiled by King Huneric, who suppressed orthodox Christianity and forces Arianism on the territories he conquered. During this time of exile, Possidius completed his famous *Life of Augustine*. He died in exile around the year 437.

My source of information about St. Possidius was taken from the website maintained by the Augustinian Friars. They also note that the Augustinian Order has celebrated the feasts of Alypius and Possidius since 1671. Pope Clement X confirmed devotion to them on August 19, 1672. The memory of Alypius and Possidius is closely tied, both as monks and bishops, to that of St. Augustine. The Augustinians consider Alypius and Possidius as the two greatest representatives of his monastic legacy. The Augustinians also point out that history does not remember them for this reason alone. They were dedicated Christians, religious, and shepherds of the Church in their own right.

Until next week,

Fr. John



EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

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

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

All are welcome to attend.

QUESTION OF THE WEEK

How do I feel challenged by Jesus' demands of discipleship??

WALKING WITH PURPOSE BIBLE STUDY

If you are concerned Bible study might not be right for you, the following bullet points may be helpful.

1. I've never studied the Bible, so homework might be too difficult.

* * An answer key is in the back of the book that all are welcome to use as they complete home work.

2. Some weeks I may not even have time to complete homework.

* * Women are encouraged to come and learn and share even after hectic weeks.

3. As a quiet person, I don't often enjoy participating in class discussions.

* * In this class, all are welcome just to listen or to participate actively as they wish. No one is EVER called on. Participants volunteer if they want to share.

4. I know very few people in this parish and might not have any friends there.

* * Many have said that one thing they have loved about the study has been meeting new people and making new friends. The sharing and discussions have made us realize that we are not alone.

5. There may not be anyone there like me in terms of age or background.

* * The great diversity of past participants has enriched all of us. We seem to be growing in unity no matter our age or background.

6. I have too many problems in my family right now. I don't have time for this. Everyone else is probably doing well and would not understand.

* * Many past participants have said the study has been a lifeline of support, and they have grown in faith during a crisis or a challenging time.

7. I do not belong to this parish.

* * Women from other parishes are more than welcome. Other parishes offer WWP Bible studies. Participants can choose one that meets at a convenient time for them.

8. I am not a Catholic.

* * ALL are welcome! Perhaps you have always wondered what Catholics believe. We are all meeting to learn more about our faith.

9. Due to travel, I will miss too many sessions.

* * All are more than welcome just to come when they can.

This fall, there will be a women's Bible group in the evening, a group conducted in Spanish, a study exclusively for high school girls, and a morning Bible study option. See the table in the Gathering Space to learn more, see specific schedules, and scan a QR code to register.



Thank you for your love, your faith & your support!



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

Carlos & Nilda Capellan
Ana Sanchez Franco
Edgar Pocasangre
Alicia Rodriguez
Irene Salazar
Joma/Richard Washirapunya

INTERCEDE & EVANGELIZE BY INVITING OTHERS TO OCIA

Do you have the gift of interceding on behalf of others to bring them into a closer relationship with Jesus? If so, then embrace that gift 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. Next Monday, September 15, Spanish speakers curious about our faith will begin meeting in small groups in the Rector'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.

COME CELEBRATE THE 3RD SPANISH MASS

ANNIVERSARY Please save the date on **Sunday, September 28**, when Fr. Grzegorz Okulewicz will mark the third anniversary of our parish offering the Mass in Spanish at the 1 pm Mass. All are welcome to attend this anniversary Mass, which regularly draws more than 200 people each week. There will be a potluck reception held after the Mass in the Gathering Space. If you would like to contribute to the potluck, then please contact parishioner Lourdes Garcia at legarcia@comcast.net.



2025-26 RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROGRAM

CLASSES BEGIN SEPTEMBER 14, 15, 16

Program calendars are posted on the parish website and have also been mailed to all who have registered.

We look forward to welcoming families starting next week.

“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.

“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.

- **Materials are ready to pick up from the Church Gathering Space starting September 7.**
- The first online session for parents will be on Zoom at 1 pm next Sunday, September 14. The link to join will be sent to families registered for Homeschool RE:
- Our program begins on September 14.

HIGH SCHOOL: Our parish also offers opportunities for youth, including **Youth Ministry** events, a **High School Catechesis** class for students in grades 9-12 which starts on Sunday, September 14, and a **new program for high school girls called Sisters of Strength** which starts on September 21. Register for these High School programs using the Religious Education registration form and look for more information about Youth Ministry offerings this fall.

It is not too late to register for this year's Religious Education program!

Children are welcome to start classes once registration is received and processed. Registration forms, program calendars, and additional information can be found on the parish website at: <https://sfadw.org/children-grades-pre-k-8>, in the Church Gathering Space, and in the Parish Office. 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.*

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.

Religious Education Catechist Meetings

As we prepare for the start of our religious education program, we look forward to seeing catechists and aides at the following Catechist Meetings by Session (in the Parish Center):

✦ **Grade K-5 Catechists:**

- Sunday Session: September 7, 9:20-10:35 am
- Monday Session: September 8, 4:45-6:00 pm

◆ **Grade 6-8 Catechists:**

- Monday Session: September 8, 6:45-8:00 pm
- Tuesday Session: September 9, 6:45-8:00 pm

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 for weekly classes
- 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.

Catechetical Sunday Blessing of Catechists at all Masses Saturday, September 20 and Sunday, September 21

Those who the Community has designated to serve as catechists will be called forth to be commissioned for their ministry. Catechetical Sunday is a wonderful opportunity to reflect on the role that each person plays, by virtue of Baptism, in handing on the faith and being a witness to the Gospel. Catechetical Sunday is an opportunity for all to rededicate themselves to this mission as a community of faith.

All parish catechists and Catholic school teachers will be invited to present themselves for a blessing as part of the Prayer of the Faithful. For new and returning catechists, we thank you for allowing us to pray for you and bless your ministry.

ST. MARTIN'S FOOD PANTRY SHORTAGES

Canned Pasta w/meat
(Ravioli, Lasagna, Spaghetti w/meatballs)
460 cans needed
Soup-Beef or Chicken base with noodles, pasta
300 cans needed
Canned Fruit 375 cans needed
Canned Meat: Chicken, Tuna,
Pasta - Spaghetti, Linguini, etc.

Diapers No. 5 & 6

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.

*Your donations supported 327 families this past week.
God Bless You! Thank you for your support.*

POOR BOX DONATIONS

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

CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY COLLECTION

This Archdiocesan collection will be taken on this weekend. CUA, guided by Catholic intellectual tradition, provides an academically rigorous education to nearly 7,000 students every year, including many from our archdiocese.

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. *Vivat Jesus!*



SCAN ME

ANNUAL CASH INCENTIVE SWEEPSTAKES

Representatives from Montgomery Council 2323 of the Knights of Columbus will be selling tickets for the Maryland State Council's Annual Cash Incentive Sweepstakes after all Masses the weekend of September 6 and 7. With tickets costing \$5 each, 1st Prize is \$7,000; 2nd Prize is \$3,000; and 3rd Prize is \$1,000. The proceeds from the State Council's portion will benefit charity and scholarship programs. Montgomery Council 2323 receives \$2 for each ticket sold, with those proceeds benefiting various Council activities, including scholarships for seminarians attending the Saint John Paul II Seminary.



ST. FRANCIS PARISH PICNIC
BLESSING OF ANIMALS

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 5
See today's bulletin
insert!

THANKS TO ALL WHO CONTRIBUTED TO THE 2025 SET THEM UP FOR SUCCESS VOLLEYBALL TOURNAMENT!

Thanks to all our parishioners for their support of the 2025 Set Them Up for Success Volleyball Tournament Fund-raiser, held August 23 at the Inter-Denominational Church of God in Gaithersburg. Whether you donated a gift basket, played for the SFAD Diggers, bought an admission or raffle ticket, volunteered, sponsored the tournament, attended the event, or sent your prayers, then we thank you for your contribution! Although the net income raised for the event has not yet been finalized, all proceeds after expenses will benefit the New Neighbor Interfaith Alliance (NNIA), an interfaith coalition that welcomes and acclimates new immigrant neighbors to Montgomery County.

Toward the end of the event, an NNIA volunteer drew tickets for winners of the 19 raffle baskets. Ten St. Francis of Assisi parishioners were among the winners of raffle baskets. They were:

- * Maria Desouza – Basket of Tupperware products
- * Fr. John Dillon – Gift cards to Fontina Grille and Bota Nero
- * Rose Hudecheck – Italian dinner basket.
- * Christine King - Tub filled with arts and crafts supplies
- * Terry King – Jurisdiction clothing store basket
- * Mary Jordan – Longaberger basket with ice bucket and beverage.
- * Grace McGuire – Various woodworking pieces.
- * Dick Murphy – Pickleball basket
- * Anne Russell – Apple-themed basket.
- * Barbara Seubert – Painting of a flower.

Congratulations to the winners!

BEREAVEMENT SESSIONS

Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church is offering 8 bereavement sessions from October 21 through December 9, 2025. The sessions take place on Tuesdays between 7:30 and 9:00 PM. The virtual sessions are available through the Zoom technology. The goal of these sessions is to provide a safe and inviting space where grief can be shared freely without expectations, fear or criticism. Group members connect with each other through their loss and help each other through attentive and compassionate listening. Members seek to move through their pain and burdens to finding God in life-giving relationships. There are no fees, but registration is required. If interested, please contact Jim Hoffman at 202 577 2213 or email: hoffmanlpc@gmail.com to register.

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 September 9, 23 & 30. 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.

Anuncios del Boletín para el 7 de septiembre de 2025:



Interceda y Evangelice Invitando a Otros a OICA

¿Tiene el don de interceder por los demás para acercarlos a Jesús? Si es así, aproveche ese don invitando a otros a nuestra Orden de Iniciación Cristiana para Adultos (OICA). Dirigido por nuestros dedicados equipos de OICA, el programa OICA está dirigido a quienes estén interesados en bautizarse, convertirse al catolicismo o completar sus 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 próximo lunes, 15 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, comuníquese con el P. Grzegorz Okulewicz en gokulewicz@sfadw.org sobre OICA en español o Tony Bosnick, Director de Asuntos Sociales y Formación en la Fe para Adultos, en abosnick@sfadw.org sobre OICA en inglés.

Sorteo Anual de Incentivos en Efectivo

Representantes del Consejo Montgomery 2323 de los Caballeros de Colón venderán boletos para el Sorteo Anual de Incentivos en Efectivo del Consejo de Estado de Maryland después de todas las misas del fin de semana del 6 y 7 de septiembre. Los boletos cuestan \$5 cada uno: el primer premio es de \$7,000; el segundo premio, de \$3,000; y el tercer premio, de \$1,000. La recaudación del Consejo de Estado se destinará a programas benéficos y de becas. El Consejo Montgomery 2323 recibirá \$2 por cada boleto vendido, y dicha recaudación se destinará a diversas actividades del Consejo, incluyendo becas para seminaristas del Seminario San Juan Pablo II. El sorteo se realizará el 11 de octubre; los ganadores no necesitan estar presentes para ganar. ¡Por favor, apoyen esta noble causa!

Venga y Celebre el Tercer Aniversario de la Misa en Español el 28 de septiembre

Reserve la fecha del domingo, 28 de septiembre, cuando el Padre Grzegorz Okulewicz conmemorará el tercer aniversario de nuestra parroquia ofreciendo la Misa en Español a la 1 p. m. Todos están invitados a asistir a esta Misa de aniversario, que regularmente atrae a más de 200 personas cada semana. Después de la Misa, habrá una recepción con comida compartida en el Espacio de Reunión. Si desea contribuir a la comida compartida, comuníquese con la feligresa Lourdes García a legarcia@comcast.net.

Estudio Bíblico "Caminando con Propósito"

Si te preocupa que el estudio bíblico no sea adecuado para ti, los siguientes puntos pueden ser útiles.

1. Nunca he estudiado la Biblia, así que la tarea podría ser demasiado difícil.

****** Al final del libro encontrarás una clave de respuestas que todos pueden usar mientras completan la tarea.

2. Algunas semanas puede que ni siquiera tenga tiempo para completar la tarea.

****** Se anima a las mujeres a venir, aprender y compartir, incluso después de semanas ajetreadas.

3. Como soy una persona reservada, no suelo participar en las discusiones en clase.

****** En esta clase, todos son bienvenidos a escuchar o participar activamente según sus deseos. NUNCA se invita a nadie. Los participantes se ofrecen como voluntarios si desean compartir.

4. Conozco a muy pocas personas en esta parroquia y puede que no tenga amigos allí.

****** Muchos han dicho que algo que les ha encantado del estudio ha sido conocer gente nueva y hacer nuevos amigos. Compartir y conversar nos ha hecho darnos cuenta de que no estamos solos.

5. Puede que no haya nadie como yo en cuanto a edad o procedencia.

****** La gran diversidad de participantes anteriores nos ha enriquecido a todos. Parece que estamos creciendo en unidad sin importar nuestra edad o procedencia.

6. Tengo demasiados problemas familiares ahora mismo.

No tengo tiempo para esto. Probablemente todos los demás estén bien y no lo entenderían.

****** Muchos participantes anteriores han dicho que el estudio ha sido un apoyo vital y que han crecido en la fe durante una crisis o un momento difícil.

7. No pertenezco a esta parroquia.

****** Las mujeres de otras parroquias son más que bienvenidas. Otras parroquias ofrecen estudios bíblicos de WWP. Los participantes pueden elegir uno que se reúna en un horario que les convenga.

8. No soy católico.

****** ¡TODOS son bienvenidos! Quizás siempre se hayan preguntado qué creen los católicos. Todos nos reunimos para aprender más sobre nuestra fe.

9. Debido a viajes, me perderé demasiadas sesiones.

****** Todos son más que bienvenidos a venir cuando puedan.

Este otoño, habrá un grupo bíblico para mujeres por la tarde, un grupo en español, un estudio exclusivo para chicas de preparatoria y una opción de estudio bíblico matutino. Consulte la tabla en el Espacio de Reunión para obtener más información, ver los horarios específicos y escanear el código QR para registrarse.



Feliz día de los abuelos