

ST FRANCIS OF ASSISI, DERWOOD

Mass Intentions

October 13 - October 19, 2025

Monday, 10/13	9:00 a.m.	Mary Rayunas
Tuesday, 10/14	9:00 a.m.	Don & Peg Smith
Wednesday, 10/15	9:00 a.m.	Krzystof Okulewicz (L)
	7:30 p.m.	Helen Dixon
Thursday, 10/16	9:00 a.m.	Paulo Pabalan
Friday, 10/17	9:00 a.m.	Rosalina F. Ruiz
Saturday, 10/18	5:00 p.m.	Brian Gallagher
Sunday, 10/19	8:00 a.m.	Jimmy Gierula
	9:30 a.m.	Helen Dixon
	11:15 a.m.	<i>Pro populo</i>
	1:00 p.m.	Margarita Hernandez (L)
	5:00 p.m.	Peter Gomez

+ In Memoriam Aeternam +

In your charity, please pray for the repose of the souls of Joseph Hornyak, brother of Mary Kate Ryner, Jean Lea, mother of Susan Lea, Former Parishioner Bob Heaney, Marlene Russo, mother of Deena Russo, Adriana Bokma, Rommel Yatco.

Please pray for the sick....Brian Ford, Callie McGowan, Jane McDonald, Zena Collins, Rosaura Barrera, Ryan Michael Maguire, Allen Kay, Evelyn Roebuck, Virginia Hartswick, Dee Comly, Richard Yeast, Joan Dudenhoefter, Virginia Kingkeo, Diana M. Lacour Kustedjo, Marie C. Williams, Tom Breece, Deacon James McCann, Tristan Olin-Fixico, 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 October 12, 2025

Sunday:	2 Kgs 5:14-17/Ps 98:1, 2-3, 3-4 (see 2b)/ 2 Tm 2:8-13/Lk 17:11-19
Monday:	Rom 1:1-7/Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4/Lk 11:29-32
Tuesday:	Rom 1:16-25/Ps 19:2-3, 4-5/Lk 11:37-41
Wednesday:	Rom 2:1-11/Ps 62:2-3, 6-7, 9/Lk 11:42-46
Thursday:	Rom 3:21-30/Ps 130:1b-2, 3-4, 5-6ab/ Lk 11:47-54
Friday:	Rom 4:1-8/Ps 32:1b-2, 5, 11/Lk 12:1-7
Saturday:	2 Tm 4:10-17b/Ps 145:10-11, 12-13, 17-18/ Lk 10:1-9
Next Sunday:	Ex 17:8-13/Ps 121:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 7-8 (see 2)/2 Tm 3:14—4:2/Lk 18:1-

THE MUSINGS OF THE PASTOR

On September 7, 2025, Pope Leo XIV canonized Carlo Acutis and Pier Giorgio Frassati. Today I want to write about Pier Giorgio. He was born in 1901 in Turin Italy to a wealthy family. From an early age he showed deep faith, which was a source of bewilderment to his parents who were agnostic. He became a Third Order Dominican who believed his vocation was to serve God in the world, especially dedicating his time and resources to serving the poor and social justice. He studied engineering with the hope of improving working conditions for miners. When he was seventeen, he joined the St. Vincent de Paul Society and spent a good deal of his time visiting the poor and sick in their homes. When his fellow students complained about the stench in the slums, he replied, "Don't forget that even though the house was sordid, you are approaching Christ."

Pier Giorgio's religious devotion did not inhibit his vibrant personality. He loved mountain climbing and skiing. He was known for his practical jokes and lively sense of humor. A strong opponent of fascism, he took part in public demonstrations that landed him in prison. Because he was such a vivacious personality, his family was shocked when he was suddenly struck down by polio and died on July 4, 1925. His family was further surprised by the crowds of poor people who gathered to pay their respects at his death. Beatified in 1990, he was canonized thirty-five years later.

I want to conclude this column with this prayer for St. Pier Giorgio Frassati:

*Heavenly Father, give us the courage
to strive for the highest goals,
to flee every temptation to be mediocre.
Enable us to aspire to greatness, as Pier Giorgio did,
and to open our hearts in joy to your call to holiness.
Free us from the fear of failure.
We want to be, Lord, firmly and forever united to you.
Grant us the graces we ask thee through
Saint Pier Giorgio Frassati's intercession,
by the merits of our Lord Jesus Christ.
Amen*

Until next week,
Fr. John

**PARISH OFFICES WILL BE CLOSED
MONDAY, OCTOBER 13
COLUMBUS DAY**



EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

Adoration is held on Fridays
in the **CHURCH**.
9:30 a.m. - 12:00 Noon
All are welcome to attend.

October 12, 2025

QUESTION OF THE WEEK

How can I, like the Samaritan, take the extra step to show my gratitude to God?

THE LORD'S TABLE SOUP KITCHEN NEEDS NEW VOLUNTEERS

The Gaithersburg Community Soup Kitchen, also called The Lord's Table, is a 41-year-old nonprofit organization whose mission is to provide food to residents unable to access sufficient nutrition. Their food programs include hot meals served from October to April and brown bag lunches served from May to September, both operating from Monday through Friday afternoons. The Lord's Table also operates a food distribution program out of Epworth United Methodist Church in Gaithersburg.

A volunteer team led by St. Francis parishioner Francisco Gonzales-Rey serves at The Lord's Table from 3-5 pm every third Friday of the month and needs new members. If you are interested in volunteering, please see www.lordstablesoupkitchen.org or contact Lord'sTableSoupKitchen@gmail.com. You can also contact Director of Social Concerns Tony Bosnick at abosnick@sfadw.org. Thank you!

JOIN THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS ON OCTOBER 21 FOR A POTLUCK DINNER AND FRATERNAL BENEFITS OVERVIEW

Come learn how the Knights of Columbus can help you protect your family and plan for retirement, while supporting an organization that contributes to important charitable causes aligned with Catholic values. All Catholic men and their spouses are invited to join us at a Potluck Social Meeting and Fraternal Benefits Night to learn more about the financial services and fraternal benefits offered by the Knights of Columbus. The gathering will be held at 7 pm Tuesday, October 21, at the Father Cuddy Hall, 17001 Overhill Road, in Derwood. Please bring a dish to share – main, side or dessert. For more information, contact Grand Knight Steve Willer at saw.kofc.fs2323@gmail.com or on his cell at (202) 809-6784.

MONTHLY BLOOD PRESSURE SCREENING THIS WEEKEND, OCTOBER 11/12

St. Francis Health Ministry volunteers will offer monthly blood pressure screenings after Masses in the St. Clare Room on the second weekend of each month. ***Why check my blood pressure?*** Because it is the only way for you to know! Often high blood pressure has no symptoms. Unless measured and treated, if necessary, the damage high blood pressure causes can go undetected, leaving you at greater risk for heart attacks and strokes. Fortunately, having your blood pressure measured is simple, quick and provided free by your SFA Health Ministry Team.

UPCOMING TALK AND CONCERT TO HEIGHTEN OUR UNDERSTANDING OF CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHING

Next week, come attend two events that will be both insightful and inform your knowledge of Catholic social teaching!

On Wednesday, October 15, Fr. Paul Lininger, OFM Conv., will address parishioners at 7:30 pm in the church on key principles and ethical guidelines rooted in the Church's social doctrine. His talk will also offer a framework by which you can make ethical decisions grappling with the challenging issues we face as people today.

On Sunday, October 19, please attend the Agapé Choral Concert, performed by members of the Contemporary Ensemble and other musical friends, at 7:30 pm in the church. The concert, sponsored by the St. Vincent de Paul Society of St. Francis of Assisi, is a paraliturgical piece featuring Scripture readings and words from Dorothy Day, Oscar Romero, and Dr. Martin Luther King. Free will donations will benefit the St. Vincent de Paul Society of St. Francis and light hors d'oeuvres will follow the concert.

For more information on either of these events, then please contact Director of Social Concerns Tony Bosnick at abosnick@sfadw.org.

DURING RESPECT LIFE MONTH, PRAY AND SUPPORT VENTURES THAT CHERISH THE DIGNITY OF HUMAN LIFE

October is Respect Life Month! Please pray for the protection of human life from conception to natural death by joining the novena from October 22-30: bit.ly/respect-life-month-novena. You can also see a prayer guide to meditate upon the dignity of human life at <https://www.respectlife.org/prayer-guides>.

Please concretely act to help the unborn by supporting the Shady Grove Pregnancy Center's Baby Bottle Campaign. Pick up a baby bottle at the table in the Gathering Space, fill it with coins, currency, and a check to help support the mission of the Shady Grove Pregnancy Center, which helps pregnant women with counseling, ultrasounds, parenting classes, and material aid. Please put 'St. Francis of Assisi Church BBC' on the memo line of any checks.

Please return all bottles by October 31. Or to give online, please use this link or QR code to get to our parish's unique giving page: <https://www.zeffy.com/en-US/donation-form/32578315-2a76-40dc-b65b-2e517d3aa7be>.





2025-26 RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CLASS UPDATE

Even though Religious Education classes have started, space is still available in some classes and children are welcome to begin attending once registration is received and processed. Registration forms can be found in the Gathering Space, the Parish Offices, and also on the parish website. **Children must be registered before they can begin classes.**

CATECHESIS FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

Our parish offers catechetical sessions specifically designed for children and youth with special needs and their families. Our class meets in-person next Sunday, October 19, from 3:30-4:30 pm. If you would like to learn more about these sessions, please call Susan Anderson, Director of Religious Education, at 301-258-9193.

FIRST RECONCILIATION PARENT MEETING: OCTOBER 22

There will be a First Reconciliation Parent Meeting on Wednesday, October 22, at 7:30 pm in the Parish Center for those who have registered their children for First Reconciliation and First Eucharist preparation this year. Letters with additional information were mailed to families with children registered for sacraments this year. If you have questions, please call the Religious Education Office, 301-258-9193.

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

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 every Tuesday evening in October. 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.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (continued)

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.



COME TO THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS PUMPKIN CARVING PARTY ON OCTOBER 18

Have you been looking forward to doing some pumpkin carving? The Knights of Columbus Montgomery Council 2323 is hosting its annual Pumpkin Carving event for school-aged children from 1-5 pm Saturday, October 18. The fun will be held at the Father Cuddy Hall, 17001 Overhill Road, in Derwood. All parish families are invited to partake in pumpkin carving and refreshments, while supplies last. To RSVP or for additional information, contact Grand Knight Steven Willer at (202) 809-6784 or e-mail him at saw.kofc.fs2323@gmail.com. You can also message the Knights of Columbus Council 2323 at www.Facebook.com/KofC2323.

INFANT MEMORIAL SERVICE TO BE HELD OCTOBER 26 IN FAIRFAX VA

Have you or someone you know lost an infant through miscarriage, abortion, ectopic pregnancy, or any other circumstance? If so, then please come to the Infant Memorial Service to be held at 7 pm Sunday, October 26, at St. Leo the Great Catholic Church, 3700 Blenheim Blvd., in Fairfax, VA. If you'd like to join us, then please e-mail info@divinemercycare.org to register. Please RSVP by October 20, so that the organizers can recognize the baby with a special gift. Family members and friends of all faiths are welcome to attend.

OCTOBER IS NATIONAL DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH

"The Church is Mother, the Church is woman. And since mothers bestow life, and women "keep" the world, let us all make greater efforts to promote mothers and to protect women. How much violence is directed against women! Enough!," said Pope Francis, January 1, 2022 at St. Peter's Basilica in the Vatican. "To hurt a woman is to insult God, who from a woman took on our humanity." For women suffering abuse at home, help is available. Contact the National Domestic Violence Hotline, 1 (800) 799-7233 (24 hours); 1 (800) 787-3224 (TTY); <https://www.thehotline.org/> to find assistance.

ST. MARTIN'S FOOD PANTRY SHORTAGES

- **Canned pasta with meat (Chef Boy Ar Dee Spaghetti w/ meatballs, ravioli, lasagna) 423 cans needed
- **Canned Fruit (15 oz) 696 cans needed
- **Canned beans (15 oz) Red, black cannellini, baked 720 cans needed
- **Canned mixed vegetables (15 oz) No corn or beans 576 cans needed

Diapers No. Newborn & 1 . Adults: Medium & Large

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 336 families this past week.
God Bless You! Thank you for your support.*

MAKE DISCIPLES OF ALL NATIONS



A PLACE AT THE TABLE

AFRICAN-AMERICANS ON THE PATH TO SAINTHOOD

Free Food and Movie Night to Celebrate Black Catholic History Month

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 15TH

6:30 – 8:30 pm

*St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church |
6701 Muncaster Mill Rd | Derwood, MD 20855*

Come learn about the six black women and men who are on the path to canonization in the documentary "A Place at the Table: African-Americans on the Path to Sainthood." All are welcome

Light meal will be provided – Film will start promptly at 6:30 pm Please **RSVP** by **November 10th** to help us with food count.

RSVP at <https://sfaderwood.flocknote.com/signup/229326> (registered parishioners only)

or call the Parish Office at 301-840-1407

Please contact Mary Hammond for any questions (mhammond1945@gmail.com).

ST. FRANCIS ANNUAL HOLIDAY BAZAAR Saturday, November 8, 2025

SHABBY CHIC

If you have "**Good quality**" items that you would like to donate to the Shabby Chic, please drop them off on **Wednesday, November 5, 12 Noon-6 pm** in the Parish Center. No clothing, shoes or books.

JEWELRY DONATIONS

Please drop the jewelry off at the parish office or leave your treasured items in the mailbox on the Rectory porch if the office is closed.

SILENT AUCTION ITEMS NEEDED

We are looking for silent auction items such as Time Shares, Sports Tickets, Theater Passes, etc. for our Fall Bazaar. For more information or to make arrangements to donate, please call the Parish Office, Donna, (301) 840-1407.

THEME BASKETS FOR SILENT AUCTION

If you would like to make up a theme basket for the Silent Auction, please call the Parish Office to let us know you are donating a special basket. Theme Baskets are always a big hit! *Please drop off your Theme Basket no later than Thursday, November 6th.*

GIFT CARDS OR GIFT CERTIFICATES

If you have unused gift cards or gift certificates that you received but know you'll never use, please consider donating them to the Silent Auction. You can drop them off at the Parish Office or put them in the collection basket in an envelope marked "Bazaar."

MILLIE'S BAKE SHOP

We will be asking parishioners to sign-up for Millie's Bake Shop at the end of October. Please watch the bulletin for more details.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

We will be asking for volunteers the weekends of October 19 & 26. You can sign-up in the Gathering Space at the Bazaar Table.



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 De-Mare, johnd2323@comcast.net or 240-354-6648. *Vivat Jesus!*

POOR BOX DONATIONS The donations for next weekend will go to **UMAN (Upper Montgomery Assistance Network)**. Thank you for your generosity!

Anuncios del Boletín para el 12 octubre de 2025

Venga a la Fiesta de Tallado de Calabazas de Caballeros de Colón el 18 de octubre

¿Ha estado esperando hacer un poco de tallado de calabazas? El Consejo Montgomery 2323 de Caballeros de Colón está organizando su evento anual de tallado de calabazas para niños en edad escolar, de 1 a 4 pm el sábado 18 de octubre. La diversión se llevará a cabo en el Father Cuddy Hall, 17001 Overhill Road, en Derwood. Todas las familias de la parroquia están invitadas a participar en la talla de calabazas y refrigerios, hasta agotar existencias. Para confirmar su asistencia o para obtener información adicional, comuníquese con el Gran Caballero Steven Willer al (202) 809-6784 o envíe un correo electrónico a saw.kofc.fs2323@gmail.com. También puede enviar un mensaje al Consejo 2323 de Caballeros de Colón a www.Facebook.com/KofC2323.

Durante el Mes del Respeto a la Vida, ora y apoya las acciones que promueven la dignidad de la vida humana

¡Octubre es el Mes del Respeto a la Vida! Por favor, ore por la protección de la vida humana desde la concepción hasta la muerte natural, uniéndose a la novena del 22 al 30 de octubre: bit.ly/respect-life-month-novena. También puede ver una guía de oración para meditar sobre la dignidad de la vida humana en <https://www.respectlife.org/prayer-guides>.

Por favor, actúe concretamente para ayudar a los no nacidos apoyando la Campaña de Biberones del Centro de Embarazo Shady Grove. Recoja un biberón en la mesa del Espacio de Reunión, llénelo con monedas, dinero y un cheque para ayudar a apoyar la misión del Centro de Embarazo de Shady Grove, que ayuda a las mujeres embarazadas con asesoramiento, ultrasonidos, clases para padres y ayuda material. Por favor, ponga 'Iglesia de San Francisco de Asís BBC' en la línea de notas de cualquier cheque.

Devuelva todas las botellas antes del 31 de octubre. O para donar en línea, use este enlace o código QR para acceder a la página única de donaciones de nuestra parroquia: <https://www.zeffy.com/en-US/donation-form/32578315-2a76-40dc-b65b-2e517d3aa7be>.



El servicio conmemorativo infantil se llevará a cabo el 26 de octubre en Fairfax, VA

¿Usted o alguien que conoce ha perdido un bebé por aborto espontáneo, aborto, embarazo ectópico o cualquier otra circunstancia? Si es así, venga al Servicio Conmemorativo Infantil que se llevará a cabo en inglés a las 7 pm el domingo 26 de octubre en la Iglesia Católica St. Leo the Great, 3700 Blenheim Blvd., en Fairfax, VA.

Si desea unirse a nosotros, envíe un correo electrónico a Info@divinemercycare.org para registrarse. Confirme su asistencia antes del 20 de octubre, para que los organizadores puedan reconocer al bebé con un regalo especial. Los familiares y amigos de todas las religiones son bienvenidos a asistir.

El comedor de beneficencia de la Mesa del Señor necesita nuevos voluntarios

El comedor comunitario de Gaithersburg, también llamado The Lord's Table, es una organización sin fines de lucro de 41 años cuya misión es proporcionar alimentos a los residentes que no pueden acceder a una nutrición suficiente. Sus programas de alimentos incluyen comidas calientes que se sirven de octubre a abril y almuerzos de bolsa marrón que se sirven de mayo a septiembre, ambos de lunes a viernes por la tarde. La Mesa del Señor también opera un programa de distribución de alimentos de la Iglesia Metodista Unida de Epworth en Gaithersburg.

Un equipo de voluntarios dirigido por el feligrés Francisco Gonzales-Rey sirve en La Mesa del Señor de 3 a 5 pm cada tercer viernes del mes y necesita nuevos miembros. Si está interesado en ser voluntario, consulte www.lordstablesoupkitchen.org o comuníquese con Lords-TableSoupKitchen@gmail.com. También puede comunicarse con el Director de Asuntos Sociales Tony Bosnick en abosnick@sfadw.org. ¡Gracias!

Próxima charla y concierto para aumentar nuestra comprensión de la doctrina social católica ¡La próxima semana, asista a dos eventos que serán de mucha utilidad e informarán su conocimiento de la doctrina social católica!

El miércoles 15 de octubre, el P. Paul Lininger, OFM Conv., se dirigirá a los feligreses en inglés a las 7:30 pm en la iglesia sobre los principios clave y las pautas éticas arraigadas en la doctrina social de la Iglesia. Su charla también ofrecerá un marco mediante el cual puede tomar decisiones éticas para lidiar con los problemas desafiantes que enfrentamos como personas hoy en día.

El domingo 19 de octubre, asista al Concierto Coral Agapé, interpretado por miembros del Conjunto Contemporáneo y otros amigos musicales, a las 7:30 pm en la iglesia. El concierto, patrocinado por la Sociedad de San Vicente de Paúl de San Francisco de Asís, es una pieza paralitúrgica que presenta lecturas de las Escrituras y palabras de Dorothy Day, Oscar Romero y el Dr. Martin Luther King. Las donaciones voluntarias beneficiarán a la Sociedad de San Vicente de Paúl de San Francisco y los entremeses ligeros seguirán al concierto. Para obtener más información sobre cualquiera de estos eventos, comuníquese con el Director de Preocupaciones Sociales Tony Bosnick en abosnick@sfadw.org.

Exámenes mensuales de presión arterial este fin de semana, 11 y 12 de octubre Los voluntarios del Ministerio de Salud de St. Francis ofrecerán exámenes mensuales de presión arterial después de las misas en el Salón St. Clare el segundo fin de semana de cada mes. ***¿Por qué controlar mi presión arterial?***

¡Porque es la única forma de que lo sepa! A menudo, la presión arterial alta no presenta síntomas. A menos que se mida y trate, si es necesario, el daño que causa la presión arterial alta puede pasar desapercibido, lo que lo deja en mayor riesgo de ataques cardíacos y accidentes cerebrovasculares. Afortunadamente, medir su presión arterial es simple, rápido y proporcionado gratuitamente por su equipo del Ministerio de Salud de SFA.