

ST FRANCIS OF ASSISI, DERWOOD

Mass Intentions

December 1 - December 7, 2025

Monday, 12/1	9:00 a.m.	Ismael & Ramona Rosales Luga
Tuesday, 12/2	9:00 a.m.	Xavier Joseph
Wednesday, 12/3	9:00 a.m.	Alex & Zachariah
	7:30 p.m.	Daniel Morley
Thursday, 12/4	9:00 a.m.	Elizabeth & Scaria
Friday, 12/5	9:00 a.m.	Barbara Lynn Beall
	7:30 p.m.	Mary Mathew Moozhayil
Saturday, 12/6	5:00 p.m.	John Ryan
Sunday, 12/7	8:00 a.m.	<i>Pro populo</i>
	9:30 a.m.	Richard Spiekermann
	11:15 a.m.	Erlinda Quemuel
	1:00 p.m.	Gaby & Rod O'Connor
	5:00 p.m.	Sofronio Abundo

+ In Memoriam Aeternam +

In your charity, please pray for the repose of the soul of Gerry Tinder, mother of Rick Tinder.

Please pray for the sick... Doug Russell, Joseph Nilo, Cardinal Robert McElroy, Tammy Doerman, Evan Grero, Callie McGowan, Enitza Rodriguez, John Talcott, Emma Vincente, Bob Farnsworth, Rosaura Barrera, Ryan Michael Maguire, Allen Kay, Evelyn Roebuck, Virginia Hartswick, Dee Comly, Richard Yeast, Joan Dudenhoefter, Virginia Kingkeo, 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 November 30, 2025

Sunday:	Is 2:1-5/Ps 122:1-2, 3-4, 4-5, 6-7, 8-9/ Rom 13:11-14/Mt 24:37-44
Monday:	Is 4:2-6/Ps 122:1-2, 3-4b, 4cd-5, 6-7, 8-9/ Mt 8:5-11
Tuesday:	Is 11:1-10/Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17/ Lk 10:21-24
Wednesday:	Is 25:6-10a/Ps 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6/Mt 15:29-37
Thursday:	Is 26:1-6/Ps 118:1 and 8-9, 19-21, 25-27a/ Mt 7:21, 24-27
Friday:	Is 29:17-24/Ps 27:1, 4, 13-14/Mt 9:27-31
Saturday:	Is 30:19-21, 23-26/Ps 147:1-2, 3-4, 5-6/ Mt 9:35—10:1, 5a, 6-8
Next Sunday:	Is 11:1-10/Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17 (see 7)/ Rom 15:4-9/Mt 3:1-12

THE MUSINGS OF THE PASTOR

After the canonization of the seven new Saints in Saint Peters Square in Rome on Sunday October 19, 2025, Pope Leo XIV addressed the pilgrims who traveled from all over the world for the event. He described the celebration in which saints were canonized as one that reminded us that the communion of the church embraced all the faithful, across space and time, in every language and culture, uniting us as the people of God, the body of Christ, and the living temple of the Holy Spirit.

Among the Saints who were canonized were two from Venezuela: Saints José Gregorio Hernández and Saint Carmen Rendiles. Pope Leo XIV highlighted their heroic virtues of faith hope and charity and invited the faithful gathered to use them for guidance for today. The Pope reminded us that faith transforms ordinary life into light for others. Hope reminds us that the struggles are not for fleeting ends; and charity, born from receiving God's plan moves us to serve the sick the poor and the small. The Holy Father also encouraged those present to see in those around them "brothers and sisters called to the same holiness," walking together in building God's kingdom with joy.

Let me say a few words about Saint José Gregorio Hernández, a Venezuelan physician, scientist, and layman who is revered as the doctor of the poor. He was born on October 26, 1864, in Isnotú in the Venezuelan state of Trujillo. When he was 13, he expressed his desire to go to law school, but his mother convinced him to study medicine. He therefore went to Caracas to study: first at a prestigious academy and then at the medical school of the Universidad Central de Venezuela (UCV), where he was considered a brilliant student. After graduating in 1888, he received a grant from the Venezuelan government to pursue studies in Europe under prominent experts, where he delved into histology, bacteriology, and pathology. Returning to Venezuela in 1893, he founded chairs in those subjects at the UCV, while practicing at a teaching hospital. He was the author of numerous scientific and medical research works as well as some literary essays. He attended daily Mass, brought medicine and care to the poor. He became a Secular Franciscan at the Capuchin church in Caracas in 1899. He attempted to study for the priesthood at two different times, but his delicate health forced him to withdraw from the seminary. After some time, Hernández concluded it was God's will for him to remain a layman. He decided to promote sanctification as an exemplary Catholic by being a doctor and giving glory to God by serving the sick. He devoted himself to academic research and deepened his dedication to serving the poor.

Dr. José Gregorio became especially well-known for his selfless labors on behalf of the sick during the great influenza epidemic of 1918, becoming known in Caracas as the "doctor of the poor," often buying medicines for them out of his own pocket. One day, as Doctor Hernández went to pick up medicine for an elderly poor woman, he was struck by a car. He died in the hospital on June 29, 1919. He was beatified by Pope Francis on April 30, 2021, and, as I have already mentioned, was canonized by Leo XIV on October 19, 2025. Saint José Gregorio Hernández, pray for us!

Until next week,

Fr. John

QUESTION OF THE WEEK

How can I prepare my heart this Advent to receive Jesus whenever he comes?



CONCRETE WORK CONTINUES ON THE PARISH GROUNDS, WEATHER PERMITTING

The concrete work on the parish grounds that began November 17 is progressing nicely with the demolition of the outdoor steps outside the Parish Center entrance and the pouring of new concrete steps to replace them. This past week, demolition and replacement of the concrete steps leading up to the side entrances of the church should have begun; the contractor working on this phase will finish by replacing the brick steps from the parking lot to the Rectory with concrete steps. Next up will be installation of a new sidewalk along the lower parking lot and new ramps at the main entrance of the church, making them compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act. Weather permitting, this work should be finished by December 5. Care will be taken to limit work noise whenever liturgies in the church are underway. Please be careful entering the church, as we improve our 50-year-old parish grounds, thanks to the generosity of donors to our recent capital campaign. Thank you!

HOLIDAY BAZAAR RAFFLE WINNERS

1st Prize	Joe Pellettiere
2nd Prize	F. Digiacomo
3rd Prize	Dan Cardile

Congratulations to all our winners!
Thank you to everyone who supported the raffle.

OLDER TEENS & ADULTS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS INVITED TO ADVENT REFLECTION ON DECEMBER 6

On Saturday, December 6, older teens and adults with special needs are invited to attend an Advent Retreat sponsored by the archdiocesan Office of Deaf and Disabilities Ministry to take place from 1-4:30 pm in our church's Parish Center. With a theme focused on St. Nicolas and the gifts we give to others, the reflection will bring together individuals with special needs, as they think about this facet of our human dignity. The event is free of charge, but attendees are asked to bring a canned good to benefit the St. Martin's Food Pantry. Please register your child using the QR Code below. For more information, please contact Director of Religious Education Susan Anderson at sander-son@sfadw.org or Office of Deaf and Disabilities Ministry Coordinator Rachel Chung at ChungR@adw.org.



ADVENT 2025 SCHEDULE

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

Spirit Tree Gift Card Project

From November 15-December 8 in the Gathering Space, buy a gift card for a needy family at the Pope Francis Outreach Center at Assumption Parish or served by the New Neighbor Interfaith Alliance.

Christmas Tree Sales

From November 29-December 14 in front of the church, purchase fresh Christmas trees and wreaths in support of this annual parish fundraiser.

Advent Wreath Candle Lighting

Individuals, couples, and families are invited to light the Advent Wreath at a weekend Mass during Advent. The signup sheet is in the Gathering Space.

Alternative Christmas Gifts

On December 6/7 and 20/21 in the Gathering Space, support mission-driven work by donating to assist various entities serving our sister parish, immigrants, single mothers, and poor people.

Advent Penance Service

7 pm December 15 in the church. Come receive forgiveness this liturgical season.

Las Posadas (The Inns)

From 6:30-8 pm December 13-21 at various parishioners' homes, join us in celebrating this Mexican religious festival commemorating St. Joseph and Mary journeying to seek refuge for Jesus' birth. Gather for prayer, song, food, and fellowship with our Spanish-speaking parishioners!

For a complete list of our parish's Advent events, services, and giving opportunities, please position your camera phone over this QR code:



MASS SCHEDULE FOR THE SOLEMNITY OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION ON DECEMBER 8

On Monday, December 8, the Church celebrates the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception, which commemorates the belief that our Blessed Mother was conceived without the stain of Original Sin. It is a holy day of obligation. Masses in English on the solemnity will be celebrated at 9 am and 12 pm in the church, with a bilingual Mass in English and Spanish being celebrated at 7 pm.



2025-26 RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

RE CLASS SCHEDULE AND THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY

There are NO Religious Education classes today, Sunday, November 30. All Monday and Tuesday RE classes **will** meet on December 1 & 2.

KEEP CHRIST IN CHRISTMAS POSTER CONTEST ENTRIES DUE DEC. 2

Knights of Columbus Montgomery Council #2323 is inviting Kindergarten through Grade 8 St. Francis Religious Education students to participate in the organization's international *Keep Christ in Christmas* poster contest. Full details can be found on the "Poster Judging Fact Sheet" and entry form distributed to students at RE classes, or on the Knights of Columbus Council 2323 website: www.kofc2323.org. To participate, students are asked to submit their completed entry form and original handmade 12"x14" or up to 11"x17" poster that reflects the contest theme: "Keep Christ in Christmas" no later than Tuesday, December 2, to Susan Anderson during Religious Education class sessions or to the parish office. For more information, contact the Religious Education office at 301-258-9193.

CHRISTMAS STOCKING HELP LINE: RETURN BY DEC. 9

Religious Education families are invited to support families served by Catholic Charities here in Montgomery County by donating small gift items and a \$25 gift card for a local department store (e.g., Target) through our "RE Christmas Stocking Help Line." Families may choose to take one (or more) stockings, purchase the gift item and gift card, and return these to RE classes by December 9. More information about this project was given to students in RE classes.

ADVENT/CHRISTMAS FAMILY EVENT FOR HOMESCHOOL OPTION RE

We look forward to gathering in-person with families sharing in our Homeschool Religious Education Program for a time of sharing, reflection and celebration. Parents and students will meet from 1-2:30 pm next Sunday, Dec. 7, in the Parish Center. Families registered for the Homeschool option will receive more information and RSVP link through Flocknote.

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, December 7, 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.

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

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (*continued*)

SACRAMENT OF PENANCE FOR RE STUDENTS

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

Sunday 9:20 Session:

Grade 4— Sun., Dec. 7
Grade 5— Sun., Dec. 14
Grade 3— Sun., Dec. 21

Monday 4:45 Session:

Grades 3, 4 and 5 – Mon., Dec. 15

Monday 6:45 Session:

Grades 6, 7 & 8 – Mon., Dec. 15
(participating in the Parish Penance Service starting at 7:00 pm)

Tuesday 6:45 Session:

Grades 6, 7 & 8 – Tues., Dec. 16

Spotlight on St. Jude Regional Catholic School

We are...St. Jude

www.StJudeRockville.org

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

Instagram: [stjuderockville](https://www.instagram.com/stjuderockville)

Twitter: [@StJudeRCS](https://twitter.com/StJudeRCS)

Didn't make it to the Open House? No worries! Our doors are open Monday-Friday for tours and Bulldog for the day 2nd-8th grade. Call or email to set up a tour or for a Bulldog for the day! To schedule a tour or Bulldog, please email Jeanne.Donatelli@StJudeRockville.org. or call the front office, 301.946.7888.



EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

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

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

All are welcome to attend.

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 meet every Tuesday evening. In December we will meet December 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.

ST. MARTIN'S FOOD PANTRY SHORTAGES

****Canned pasta with meat (Chef Boy Ar Dee Spaghetti w/ meatballs, ravioli, lasagna) 15 oz cans**

****Canned Fruit (15 oz)**

****Mixed Vegetables (15 oz) no green beans or corn**

****Pasta Sauce (any flavor) 15 oz cans—no 45 oz bottles.**
Smaller bottles are easier for distribution and for folks to carry

****Dry Pasta 1 lb. boxes—straight pasta**

Diapers No. 2, 5 & 6 Infant & Adults: Medium & Large
Pads & Wipes

Paper Bags (Wegmans or Trader Joe size or similar).

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

***Your donations supported 338 families this past week.
God Bless You! Thank you for your support.***

THE HOUR OF GRACE

The Apostolate of the Rosa Mystica at St. John Neumann invites you to celebrate **The Hour of Grace** to honor our Lady on Monday, December 8, 2025 from 12 noon to 1 p.m. at Our Lady's Chapel, Mother of God Community, 20501 Goshen Road, Gaithersburg. The Rosa Mystica devotion was granted the Nihil Obstat on July 13, 2024 by the Dicastery for the Doctrine of the Faith. Please arrive early as the celebration will begin promptly at 12 noon. For more information, please contact Vicky: vhschneider1@aol.com.



Walk with Mary

DECEMBER/DICIEMBRE 13, 2025

Basilica National Shrine
of the Immaculate Conception



The Roman Catholic
Archdiocese of
Washington

Visit adw.org/walkwithmary or call 301-863-5335 for more information.

Music Notes ✪

At the 9:30 am Mass on November 30, our closing hymn, "Savior of the Nations Come," is quite ancient. The text, "Veni, Redemptor gentium" in the original Latin, was written by Ambrose of Milan, who is famously remembered for his role in the conversion of St. Augustine of Hippo. We should remember Ambrose not only as a bishop and gifted rhetorician, but also as a hymnist who wrote Latin hymns for his congregation to sing. Ambrose's text proclaimed the divinity of Jesus, thereby also combatting the Arian heresy of the times, which posited that Jesus was not truly divine. The English translation that we sing is a translation of the German "Nun Komm, der Heiden Heiland" which Martin Luther adapted from Ambrose's original Latin text. The tune paired with this hymn text is an adaptation of a Gregorian chant melody. It appeared with Luther's text in the first Lutheran hymn collection *Geistliche Gesangbüchlein* (translated as Spiritual Songbook) in 1524.

CHRISTMAS BAZAAR & BREAKFAST WITH SAINT NICK

St. Peter's Olney

2900 Olney Sandy Spring Rd, Olney, MD 20832

Friday, December 5 6-9pm

Saturday, December 6 8am - 1pm

Breakfasts Seatings Saturday 8am & 10:30am

Shopping, Craft Room, Baked Goods, Cake Walk, Games and many other activities.

For more information contact: Lori Hartinger 703-624-7233 or lorihartinger@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 services. We have a prayer list posted in the Gathering Space for those who are serving in these areas. Please help us to keep it current by letting us know of any parishioner who is currently deployed so we can add them, and also those who have returned so that we can remove their names.



**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 a limited time only get **one year free** online membership by clicking on the QR Code! For more information please contact Membership Director, John DeMare, johnd2323@comcast.net or 240-354-6648. **Vivat Jesus!**



SCAN ME

Anuncios del boletín para el 30 de noviembre de 2025:

Horario de Misas para la Solemnidad de la Inmaculada Concepción, 8 de diciembre

El lunes 8 de diciembre, la Iglesia celebra la Solemnidad de la Inmaculada Concepción, que conmemora la creencia de que nuestra Santísima Madre fue concebida sin la mancha del Pecado Original. Es día de precepto. Se celebrarán Misas en inglés a las 9:00 y a las 12:00 en la iglesia, y una Misa bilingüe en inglés y español a las 19:00.

El documental "A Place at the Table" atrae a una multitud considerable de personas interesadas en los Seis Santos

El 15 de noviembre, aproximadamente 80 personas de nuestra parroquia y varias vecinas se reunieron en el Centro Parroquial para compartir el pan y ver el documental "Un lugar en la mesa: afroamericanos en el camino hacia la santidad." Patrocinado por el Comité Ad Hoc sobre Racismo del Consejo Pastoral Parroquial, el cortometraje de casi dos horas contó la historia de seis afroamericanos que están en la cola para la santidad, tocando sus orígenes, las vidas de santidad y virtud que llevaban, y los desafíos que enfrentaron, especialmente al madurar en una iglesia que discriminaba abiertamente a los afroamericanos.

Tras la película, la mayoría de los asistentes se quedó para reflexionar sobre tres preguntas de discusión que la coordinadora del evento, Ann Pierre, había identificado. El evento también fue hospitalario, con deliciosas ensaladas, bocadillos, postres y bebidas preparados y coordinados por la coordinadora del Ministerio de Eventos Especiales, Sylvia Jones, y su equipo de voluntarios. Gracias a todos los asistentes, especialmente a los miembros del Comité Ad-hoc sobre el Racismo que convirtieron la idea de este evento en realidad.

Adolescentes mayores y adultos con necesidades especiales invitados a la reflexión de Adviento el 6 de diciembre

El sábado 6 de diciembre, se invita a adolescentes mayores y adultos con necesidades especiales a asistir a un Retiro de Adviento en inglés patrocinado por la Oficina de Ministerio para Sordos y Discapacidades de la arquidiócesis, que tendrá lugar de 1.00 a 4.30 pm en el Centro Parroquial de nuestra iglesia. Con un tema centrado en San Nicolás y los dones que damos a los demás, la reflexión reunirá a personas con necesidades especiales, mientras reflexionan sobre este aspecto de nuestra dignidad humana.

El evento es gratuito, pero se pide a los asistentes que lleven un producto enlatado para beneficiar a la despensa de alimentos de St. Martin's. Por favor, registre a su hijo usando el código QR que aparece a continuación. Para más información, por favor contacte con la Directora de Educación Religiosa, Susan Anderson, en sanderson@sfadw.org o con la Coordinadora del Ministerio de la Oficina de Sordos y Discapacidades, Rachel Chung, en ChungR@adw.org.



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

Proyecto de tarjetas de regalo del Árbol del Espíritu

Del 15 de noviembre al 8 de diciembre, en el Salón Parroquial, compre una tarjeta de regalo para una familia necesitada del Centro de Ayuda Papa Francisco de la Parroquia de la Asunción o atendida por la Alianza Interreligiosa Nuevo Vecino.

Venta de árboles de Navidad

Del 29 de noviembre al 14 de diciembre, frente a la iglesia, compre árboles de Navidad y coronas frescas para apoyar esta colecta anual de la parroquia.

Encendido de la Corona de Adviento

Se invita a personas, parejas y familias a encender la Corona de Adviento durante una misa de fin de semana. La hoja de inscripción está en el Espacio de Reunión.

Regalos navideños alternativos

Los días 6, 7, 20 y 21 de diciembre, en el Espacio de Reunión, apoye la labor humanitaria donando para ayudar a diversas entidades que sirven a nuestra parroquia hermana, a inmigrantes, a madres solteras y a personas necesitadas.

Servicio de penitencia de Adviento

15 de diciembre a las 7:00 p. m. en la iglesia. Venga a recibir el perdón en este tiempo litúrgico.

Las Posadas

Del 13 al 21 de diciembre, en casas de feligreses, únete a nosotros para celebrar esta festividad religiosa mexicana que conmemora el viaje de San José y la Virgen María en busca de refugio para el nacimiento de Jesús. ¡Reúnete para orar, cantar, compartir comida y disfrutar de la compañía de nuestros feligreses hispanohablantes!

Para ver la lista completa de eventos, servicios y oportunidades para ofrendar durante el Adviento en nuestra parroquia, coloca la cámara de tu teléfono sobre este código QR:



LA HORA DE GRACIA

El Apostolado de la Rosa Mística de la Iglesia SJN, te invita a celebrar la Hora de Gracia en honor a nuestra Señora el lunes 8 de diciembre de 12:00 a 13:00 horas en la Capilla de la Comunidad Madre de Dios, 20501 Goshen Road, Gaithersburg. El Dicasterio para la Doctrina de la Fe concedió el Nihil Obstat a la devoción de la Rosa Mística el 13 de julio de 2024. Por favor, llega temprano ya que la celebración comenzará puntualmente a las 12:00 horas. Para mayor información por favor contactar a Vicky: vhschneider1@aol.com