



Mass Intentions

December 8 - December 14, 2025

Monday, 12/8	9:00 a.m.	Mary Delores Bronder
	12:00 p.m.	Robert F. Ruiz
	7:00 p.m.	<i>Pro populo</i>
Tuesday, 12/9	9:00 a.m.	Lola Ramsaran
Wednesday, 12/10	9:00 a.m.	Dr. Hector Asuncion
	7:30 p.m.	Alex O'Connor
Thursday, 12/11	9:00 a.m.	Richard Spiekerman
Friday, 12/12	9:00 a.m.	Danielle Payen
Saturday, 12/13	5:00 p.m.	Wanda Fangmeyer
Sunday, 12/14	8:00 a.m.	Robert D. Ruiz
	9:30 a.m.	Don & Peg Smith
	11:15 a.m.	Barbara Behrens
	1:00 p.m.	Teena & Ruben Jacob (L)
	5:00 p.m.	<i>Pro populo</i>

+ In Memoriam Aeternam +

In your charity, please pray for the repose of the soul of Daniel Price, son of Jack & Debra Price, Joel Carlson, father of Pete Carlson, Thomas Hoffman, brother of Sue Madison, Reverend Klaus Sirianni, Parochial Vicar, St. Stepen, Martyr and Chaplain George Washington University Hospital.

Please pray for the sick....Doug Russell, Joseph Nilo, Enita Rodriguez, John Talcott, Bob Farnsworth, Rosaura Barrera, Ryan Michael Maguire, Allen Kay, Evelyn Roebuck, Virginia Hartswick, Dee Comly, Richard Yeast, Joan Dudenhoeffer, 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 December 7, 2025

Sunday:	Is 11:1-10/Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17 (see 7)/ Rom 15:4-9/Mt 3:1-12
Monday:	Gn 3:9-15, 20/Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4/
Tuesday:	Eph 1:3-6, 11-12/Lk 1:26-38
Wednesday:	Is 40:1-11/Ps 96:1-2, 3 and 10ac, 11-12, 13/ Mt 18:12-14
Thursday:	Is 40:25-31/Ps 103:1-2, 3-4, 8 and 10/ Mt 11:28-30
Friday:	Is 41:13-20/Ps 145:1 and 9, 10-11, 12-13ab/ Mt 11:11-15
Saturday:	Zec 2:14-17 or Rv 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab/ Jdt 13:18bcde, 19/Lk 1:26-38 or Lk 1:39-47
Next Sunday:	Sir 48:1-4, 9-11/Ps 80:2ac and 3b, 15-16, 18-19/Mt 17:9a, 10-13
	Is 35:1-6a, 10/Ps 146:6-7, 8-9, 9-10 (see Is 35:4)/Jas 5:7-10/Mt 11:2-11

THE MUSINGS OF THE PASTOR

I am continuing this series of columns on saints canonized by Pope Leo XIV at the Vatican almost two months ago. Today we are looking at Saint María del Carmen Rendiles Martínez who was born in Caracas, Venezuela in 1903. Born without a left arm, she was soon fitted with a prosthesis. Later Carmen became quite talented in both painting and embroidery. When she was fourteen, she felt a calling to religious life. She applied to several religious communities who rejected her application because of her limb difference. She eventually applied to and was accepted by the Servants of Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament, a French religious community that had established branch houses in Colombia and Venezuela.

Carmen was a model religious and was a very happy member of the Servants of Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament. In 1965 the sisters in France decided to dress in secular clothes and begin living like a secular institute. The sisters in Colombia and Venezuela did not want to go along with these changes. They sought autonomy and under the leadership of Mother Carmen established a new community more in line with the original rule of the Servants of Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament. She served as superior general of the congregation from 1969 until her death from influenza in 1977. She was beatified by Pope Francis in 2018. The miracle recognized for her beatification was the healing of the arm of a physician.

When Pope Leo canonized the seven saints (including Saint María del Carmen Rendiles Martínez) in St. Peter's Square on October 19, 2025, he described that celebration as one that "reminds us that the communion of saints embraces 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."

May Saint María del Carmen Rendiles Martínez pray for us!

Until next week,
Fr. John

December 7, 2025

QUESTION OF THE WEEK

How can my family live together more harmoniously? What can I do to help make this happen?

WELCOME to the Family of Christ!

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

Scovia Anirwoth
Christine & Luis Bonta
Kristin Hardy
Sonia & Thomas Mix

The following children were baptized during the month of November:

Joaquin Amedeo Banta
Emilio Clark Palmeiro

MAKE A GIFT TO THE PARISH THROUGH #IGIVECATHOLIC.ORG

Through December 9, please consider a one-time financial donation this year to support our parish through the #iGiveCatholic campaign. #iGiveCatholic is a national initiative associated with the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops to encourage generosity among Catholics. Last week, registered parishioners should have received a letter from Fr. John Dillon, explaining our parish's need for help considering rising expenses and stagnant income. Please pray over whether you can pay forward the blessings God has given you to support our parish community. Donations can be made by logging onto <https://www.igivecatholic.org> and searching for 'St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church.' If you have any questions, please call the Parish Office at (301) 840-1407.

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL TO HOST MINISTRY FAIR ON JANUARY 10-11, 2026

Please save the date on January 10-11, 2026, for our parish's first Ministry Fair in many years. The Parish Pastoral Council will sponsor the fair – to be held after all Masses that weekend in the Gathering Space and in the Kuehner Room -- to help parishioners grow spiritually and in community by connecting them with ministry opportunities to serve. Ministry coordinators who would like their ministries represented are invited to contact the Parish Office at (301) 840-1407; space will be made available to participating ministries on a first-come, first-serve basis.

FAITH DIRECT/PARISHSOFT GIVING

Faith Direct has now upgraded to ParishSOFT Giving, their new, secure giving platform. This upgrade happened automatically and securely. Your gift schedules and payment details have transferred over. No action is required from you. Please note, if you were a weekly giver, your gifts will now be processed each week instead of once a month. **You can use your Faith Direct credentials to log into the new website: <https://giving.parishsoft.com/>** App/Giving/FD-110. Please contact the office of Donor Support at donorsupport@parishsoft.com or call 866-507-8757 to enroll or if you have questions.



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 in DC or served by the New Neighbor Interfaith Alliance. Gift cards are due back to the church by December 8.

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.

Religious Christmas card sale

On December 7 and 14, come buy religious Christmas cards after the 8 am, 9:30 am, and 11:15 am Masses. A packet of 10 cards is \$8. All proceeds will benefit Montgomery County Right to Life.

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:



FEAST OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION (HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION) December 8

Mass Times: 9AM - 12 Noon (English)
7PM (Bilingual)

Parish Offices are Closed.



2025-26 RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

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 today, 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 today, 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.

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:

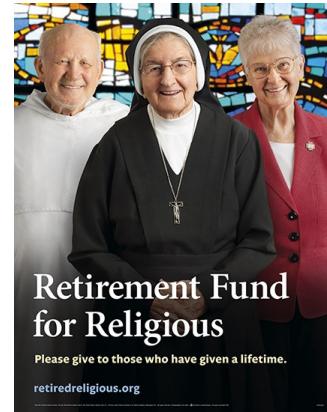
Grades 3, 4 and 5 – Mon., Dec. 15

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



Retirement Fund for Religious

Please give to those who have given a lifetime.
retiredreligious.org

A lifetime of service deserves care in return. "Thanks to your generosity, we can provide the very best care to the sisters in our community," say Sister M. Stephanie Belgeri, 73, a member of the Sisters of St. Francis of the Martyr St. George in Alton, Illinois. Donations to the Retirement Fund for Religious provide housing, medical assistance, and essential support for thousands of aging religious. Please consider giving next week.

CHRISTMAS REMEMBRANCE PRAYER SERVICE TO BE HELD AT OUR PARISH ON DECEMBER 12

The holidays can be a particularly difficult time for people who have recently lost a loved one – even if the loss occurred many years ago. On Friday, December 12, please come to an archdiocesan Bilingual Christmas Remembrance Prayer Service to be held at 7 pm at our church. Fr. John Dillon will lead the prayer service, which is co-sponsored by the archdiocesan Office of Family Life and the Office of Deaf and Disabilities Ministry. Join us to remember loved ones who have gone before us as we endeavor to share the peace of the Christ Child and find gentle joy in memories during the holiday season. For more information, please call the Office of Family Life at (301) 853-4499 or e-mail them at flm@adw.org. You can also contact the Office of Deaf and Disabilities Ministry at (301) 853-4560/Video phone: (301) 200-5430 or e-mail them at specialneedsministry@adw.org.

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)

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.

POOR BOX DONATIONS The donations for next weekend will go to ***The Shady Grove Pregnancy Center***.
Thank you for your

ST. MARTIN'S FOOD PANTRY SHORTAGES

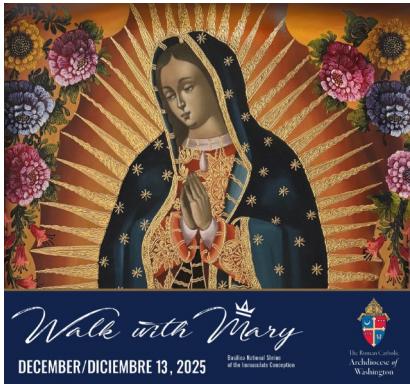
**Canned pasta with meat (Chef Boy Ar Dee Spaghetti w/ meatballs, ravioli, lasagna) 15 oz cans
**Canned Fruit (15 oz)
**Mixed Vegetables (15 oz) no green beans or corn
**Pasta Sauce (any flavor) 15 oz cans—no 45 oz bottles.
Smaller bottles are easier for distribution and for folks to carry
**Dry Pasta 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.*



Walk with Mary Feast of our Lady of Guadalupe December 13, 2025

Principal Celebrant: Robert Cardinal McElroy,
Archbishop of Washington

Concelebrant: Bishop Evelio Menjivar,
Auxiliary Bishop of Washington

All are invited to join in our annual archdiocesan celebration of the feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe! Each year, we honor Our Lady with a pilgrimage through the streets of Washington, D.C. Our pilgrimage begins at The Shrine of the Sacred Heart and concludes at The Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, where together we pray the Rosary and celebrate Mass.

**PROCESSION: 11:00 AM
ROSARY: 1:00 PM
MASS: 2:00 PM**



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

Music Notes

As we celebrate the feast of the Immaculate Conception on Monday, December 8, we sing beloved Marian hymns. "Immaculate Mary" traces its origins to the Shrine of Our Lady of Lourdes in France. The text is believed to have been written by a French priest and seminary superior, Abbé Jean Gaignet. After the death of Gaignet's two brothers during the Franco-Prussian War of 1870, the priest, deeply affected by this loss, took some time off from his seminary duties and visited southern France. It seems likely that he visited the then-new pilgrimage site of Lourdes, where our Blessed Mother appeared in 1858. His text was paired with a traditional Pyrenees melody. It is believed that pilgrims first sang this hymn at Lourdes in 1873. The hymn "O Sanctissima" was first published in a London periodical in 1792, but originated in Sicily. It was a hymn that sailors would sing at the end of their long, tiring days.

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.

MOURNING THE DEATH OF A CHILD

The Compassionate Friends (TCF) is an organization that can offer help to bereaved parents. TCF is an informal support group of mothers and fathers who know and understand the tragic impact that the death of a child has on a family. Meetings are held on the first Thursday of each month at 7 pm at Potomac Presbyterian Church, 10301 River Road, Potomac MD 20854. There are no professional counselors, only parents who are willing to share their experiences with non-judgmental and understanding listeners. Everything is confidential, and there are no fees .

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.



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.

Haga una donación a la parroquia a través del hashtag #iGiveCatholic.org

Hasta el 9 de diciembre, por favor considere una donación económica única este año para apoyar a nuestra parroquia a través de la campaña #iGiveCatholic. #iGiveCatholic es una iniciativa nacional asociada con la Conferencia de Obispos Católicos de los Estados Unidos para fomentar la generosidad entre los católicos.

La semana pasada, los feligreses registrados deberían haber recibido una carta del padre John Dillon, explicando la necesidad de ayuda de nuestra parroquia debido al aumento de los gastos y el estancamiento de los ingresos. Por favor, ore para saber si puede devolver las bendiciones que Dios le ha dado para apoyar a nuestra comunidad parroquial. Las donaciones pueden hacerse iniciando sesión en <https://www.igivecatholic.org> y buscando 'Iglesia Católica de San Francisco de Asís'. Si tiene alguna pregunta, por favor llame a la Oficina Parroquial al (301) 840-1407.

El servicio de oración navideño de recuerdo se celebrará en nuestra parroquia el 12 de diciembre

Las fiestas pueden ser un momento especialmente difícil para quienes han perdido recientemente a un ser querido, incluso si la pérdida ocurrió hace muchos años. El viernes 12 de diciembre, por favor, acudan a un Servicio de Oración Bilingüe de Recuerdo Navideño arquidiocesano que se celebrará a las 7.00 pm en nuestra iglesia. El padre John Dillon dirigirá el servicio de oración, que está copatrocinado por la Oficina de Vida Familiar arquidiocesana y la Oficina de Ministerio para Sordos y Discapacidades. Únase a nosotros para recordar a los seres queridos que nos precedieron mientras nos esforzamos por compartir la paz del Niño Jesús y encontrar una alegría suave en los recuerdos durante la temporada navideña.

Para más información, por favor llame a la Oficina de Vida Familiar al (301) 853-4499 o envíe un correo electrónico al fml@adw.org. También puede contactar con la Oficina del Ministerio para Sordos y Discapacidades en el (301) 853-4560/Videoteléfono: (301) 200-5430 o enviarles un correo electrónico al specialneedsministry@adw.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.



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.

Venta de tarjetas religiosas de Navidad

El 7 y 14 de diciembre, venga a comprar tarjetas de Navidad religiosas en inglés después de las misas de las 8, 9:30 y 11:15. Un paquete de 10 cartas cuesta 8 dólares. Todos los beneficios se destinarán para Montgomery County Right to Life.

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:

