

ST FRANCIS OF ASSISI, DERWOOD

Mass Intentions

December 15 - December 21, 2025

Monday, 12/15	9:00 a.m.	Joan O'Brien
Tuesday, 12/16	9:00 a.m.	Joseph & Lynn Gardner
Wednesday, 12/17	9:00 a.m.	Violette & Damien Payen
	7:30 p.m.	Jose Abad, Jr.
Thursday, 12/18	9:00 a.m.	Roger Payen
Friday, 12/19	9:00 a.m.	Amal Youssef Khoury
Saturday, 12/20	5:00 p.m.	Maryann Murphy
Sunday, 12/21	8:00 a.m.	Thomas McGettigan
	9:30 a.m.	Dr. Hector Asuncion
	11:15 a.m.	Otto & Kay Maender
	1:00 p.m.	<i>Pro populo</i>
	5:00 p.m.	Rita Arias

+ In Memoriam Aeternam +

In your charity, please pray for the repose of the souls of Joel Carlson, father of Pete Carlson, Thomas Hoffman, brother of Sue Madison, Joan Dudenhoeffer, wife of the late Ed Dudenhoeffer.

Please pray for the sick....Doug Russell, Joseph Nilo, Enitza Rodriguez, John Talcott, Bob Farnsworth, Rosaura Barrera, Ryan Michael Maguire, Allen Kay, Evelyn Roebuck, Virginia Hartswick, Dee Comly, Richard Yeast, 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 14, 2025

Sunday:	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
Monday:	Nm 24:2-7, 15-17a/Ps 25:4-5ab, 6 and 7bc, 8-9/ Mt 21:23-27
Tuesday:	Zep 3:1-2, 9-13/Ps 34:2-3, 6-7, 17-18, 19 and 23/Mt 21:28-32
Wednesday:	Gn 49:2, 8-10/Ps 72:1-2, 3-4ab, 7-8, 17/ Mt 1:1-17
Thursday:	Jer 23:5-8/Ps 72:1-2, 12-13, 18-19/Mt 1:18-25
Friday:	Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a/Ps 71:3-4a, 5-6ab, 16-17/ Lk 1:5-25
Saturday:	Is 7:10-14/Ps 24:1-2, 3-4ab, 5-6/Lk 1:26-38
Next Sunday:	Is 7:10-14/Ps 24:1-2, 3-4, 5-6 (7c, 10b)/ Rom 1:1-7/Mt 1:18-24

STEWARDSHIP REPORT

Figures were not available at the time of publication.

Thank you for your continued support!

THE MUSINGS OF THE PASTOR

One of the seven saints canonized on October 19, 2025, by Pope Leo XIV was Saint Vincenza Maria Poloni, ISM. Today I will tell you a bit about her life and her accomplishments.

Luigia Poloni was born in 1802 in Verona, Italy, the youngest of twelve siblings. She grew up in a Christian environment and was engaged in charitable acts—following in the footsteps of her father who had been engaged in them as well. Eventually she met Blessed Charles Steeb and came under his guidance as she devoted her time to working with the poor, the elderly, and the chronically ill.

In 1836, she worked tirelessly during a cholera epidemic and put her own health at risk. Two years later she devoted herself full time to the care of the sick and elderly. She also made the conscious decision to live a life of continual prayer and loving service to the poor.

On September 10, 1848, she founded the Sisters of Mercy of Verona and took Maria Vincenza as her name in religion. Her motto, “Serving Christ in the Poor,” became the foundation of the new congregation. She made it her mission to visit those who were sick or orphans. She aimed to console them and help them with their lives while showing them the love of Christ.

Shortly after she established the congregation with the guidance of Blessed Charles Steeb, she noticed a tumor that was growing slowly on her body. She underwent surgery in the hope that it would ease the pain and discomfort she felt because of the tumor. Unfortunately, the surgery failed to improve her condition. She died on November 11, 1855 and was buried in the municipal cemetery of Verona. The congregation that Poloni and Steeb established grew outside of Verona and expanded to other nations, including Portugal and Tanzania.

Pope Benedict XVI approved Poloni’s heroic virtue and proclaimed her to be venerable on April 28, 2006. A miracle which was attributed to her intercession was approved by Pope Benedict XVI on December 17, 2007. She was beatified on September 21, 2008.

The second miracle was the miraculous healing of a member of the Sisters of Mercy of Verona. This sister had breast cancer. After invoking her intercession, she fell asleep. She woke up suddenly and realized that she had been healed. This miracle was ratified on January 27, 2005, and was canonized by Pope Leo almost two months ago.

Saint Maria Vincenza Poloni, pray for us!

Until next week,
Fr. John

QUESTION OF THE WEEK

If I am honest with myself, what part of Jesus' message offends me?

RETIREMENT FUND FOR RELIGIOUS

They gave their lives in service-now they need your help. For decades, women and men religious have cared for others, teaching, praying, and serving those in need. Many now face retirement without sufficient savings. Your support ensures they receive the care they deserve. Let us now offer them the dignity they have so selflessly granted to others. Your generosity today is not just a donation-it's a way of thanking them for their lifelong service. Please give to the Retirement Fund for Religious this weekend.

MONTHLY BLOOD PRESSURE SCREENING



THIS WEEKEND, DECEMBER 13/14

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.

COME JOIN AN ADVENT RETREAT ON HEARING GOD'S VOICE BETTER IN OUR LIVES

On December 20, join other St. Francis of Assisi parishioners taking part in a half-day retreat focused on hearing God's voice better in our lives. The retreat, "Word of God - Speak!: Hearing God's Voice Amid Our Busy Lives" will take place from 9 am-2:30 pm in the Augustus Room of St. Anselm's Abbey in Washington DC.

The day will begin with an optional Mass with the monks at 8:30 am and will formally start at 9 am with check-in and breakfast. Session topics will include preparing to listen; considering all the ways God speaks to us; and how to test what we hear and retain what is good.

A maximum of 20 men and women can be accommodated at the retreat; participants should bring a notebook or journal. There is no set cost, but a free will offering to cover food and a donation to the monks would be much appreciated.

To RSVP or for more information, please contact parishioner Wendel Hall at wendel@halllawoffice.net or call him at (202) 384-5793. St. Anselm's Abbey is located at 4501 South Dakota Avenue, NE, Washington DC 20017. Read more about the abbey at <https://stanselms.org/>.



ADVENT 2025 SCHEDULE

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

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!

Half-day Retreat

On December 20 from 9 am-2:30 pm at St. Anselm's Abbey in Washington DC, come join fellow parishioners in opening your ears and hearts to hearing God's voice better in your life. Sessions will include preparing to listen and discerning all the ways God speaks to us. To RSVP, contact Wendel Hall at wendel@halllawoffice.net.

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



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



2025-26 RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

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 21, 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 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



RE CLASS SCHEDULE & THE CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS

**** All Sunday Religious Education classes will meet on December 21.**

**** There are NO Religious Education classes on the following days:**
*** Monday & Tuesday, December 22 & 23.
*** Sunday, Monday, & Tuesday, December 28, 29 & 30.
*** Sunday, January 4.

**** All Monday and Tuesday RE classes WILL meet on January 5 and 6.**

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (*continued*)

FIRST RECONCILIATION PREP DAY – SATURDAY, JANUARY 10

Children preparing to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation for the first time will attend a day of preparation on Saturday, January 10 from 9:00 am - 12:30 pm in the Parish Center (Snow date: January 17). Please pray for these children who will receive this Sacrament on Saturday, January 24.

SNOW/EMERGENCY CANCELLATION POLICY

If Montgomery County Public Schools are closed for weather, and if schools are dismissed early, Religious Education classes are also cancelled. This applies to Sunday classes as well if Montgomery County Public Schools announces cancellation of weekend school activities.

Cancellation announcements will be posted:

- On the parish website: www.sfadw.org
- On the St. Francis Parish Facebook page: "St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church"
- On the Religious Education Office phone voicemail: 301-258-9193.

Whenever in doubt, please use your own judgment about local weather and driving conditions, and err on the side of safety when making decisions about bringing your child to class.

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.

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.

ST. MARTIN'S FOOD PANTRY SHORTAGES

- **Canned Soup with chicken or beef base with pasta or starch & meat 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 Adults: Medium & Large

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

ARCHDIOCESE SEEKS YOUTH & YOUNG ADULT FEEDBACK

Calling all youth ages 13-17 and young adults ages 18-39! The Archdiocese of Washington is interested in hearing from you, as it realigns its priorities and resources to better serve youth and young adults throughout the archdiocese. If you are a youth ages 13-17 or a young adult 18-39, then please access the survey for your constituency by using the QR codes below. Please respond to these surveys by Wednesday, December 31. If you have any questions, feel free to contact Director of Religious Education Susan Anderson at (301) 258-9193. Thank you for taking the time to fill out these surveys!

**ADW Youth
Survey
(ages 13-17)**

Use QR Code below
to access the survey



**ADW Young
Adult Survey
(ages 18-39)**

Use QR Code below
to access the survey



2025 CONTRIBUTION STATEMENTS

To receive credit in 2025, your contributions must be dated December 31, 2025. If you are mailing a contribution, it must be received in the parish Office on or before Tuesday, January 2, 2026. Online givers through Faith Direct/ParishSOFT Giving will be receiving your year-end statement from a combined effort. More information to come on this.



EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

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

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

All are welcome to attend.

Music Notes

At the 9:30 am Mass on December 14, the text of our closing hymn, "People Look East" was written by the English poet and writer, Eleanor Farjeon (1881-1965). The text speaks of the east as the direction of the rising sun and, in the history of Christianity, the direction of the coming Messiah. In Farjeon's childhood, she was homeschooled and she loved books; perhaps her frequent headaches and colds were partly caused by the dust of the "little bookroom" - an attic space piled with books. She was encouraged by her father, who was also a writer, to write from an early age. She became a celebrated poet, writer and playwright, winning awards for several of her books for children. She became friends with other distinguished writers including D. H. Lawrence and Robert Frost. She is also the author of the well-known hymn "Morning Has Broken." The Advent text "People Look East" is set to the French carol BESANÇON, which earlier appeared with the anonymous text, "Shepherds, shake off your drowsy sleep."

CARE TO JOIN A PORTUGUESE CAMINO PILGRIMAGE?

Have you ever wanted to walk the Portuguese Camino Route, which goes from Portugal to the cathedral of Santiago de Compostela in Spain? If so, then come join Deacon Eugene de Ribeaux from St. John Neumann Parish and Fr. Conor Hardy from St. Mary's Parish in Piscataway in a pilgrimage of the Portuguese route on August 2-11, 2026. There are still a few spots available on this pilgrimage, but you must register before January 2 to take advantage of the early bird discount. See this website for the itinerary and other details: <https://www.ctscentral.net/travel-tours/camino-de-santiago>.

Buen camino!

CATHOLIC CHARITIES LEGAL NETWORK SEEKS VOLUNTEER LAWYERS FOR PRO-BONO WORK

Catholic Charities Legal Network counsels and provides legal representation to low-income and poor residents throughout the Archdiocese of Washington, D.C. and relies heavily on volunteer lawyers to fulfill its mission. If you are a lawyer in active status who wants to make a real difference in the lives of families and individuals struggling in our community, please reach out to Dan Collopy at (301) 615-0949 or daniel.collopy@cc-dc.org to discuss how you can help. The Legal Network handles most civil practice areas and criminal expungements.



**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 14 de diciembre de 2025:

Únase a un retiro de Adviento sobre escuchar mejor la voz de Dios en nuestras vidas.

El 20 de diciembre, únase a otros feligreses de San Francisco de Asís en un retiro de medio día enfocado en escuchar mejor la voz de Dios en nuestras vidas. El retiro, "Palabra de Dios - ¡Habla!: Escuchando la voz de Dios en medio de nuestras vidas ajetreadas", se llevará a cabo de 9:00 a. m. a 2:30 p. m. en la Sala Augustus de la Abadía de San Anselmo en Washington D. C.

El día comenzará con una misa opcional con los monjes a las 8:30 a. m. y comenzará formalmente a las 9:00 a. m. con el registro y el desayuno. Los temas de las sesiones en inglés incluirán: prepararse para escuchar; considerar todas las maneras en que Dios nos habla; y cómo poner a prueba lo que oímos y retener lo bueno.

Se puede acomodar un máximo de 20 hombres y mujeres en el retiro; los participantes deben traer un cuaderno o diario. No hay un costo fijo, pero se agradecería una ofrenda voluntaria para cubrir la comida y una donación a los monjes.

Para confirmar su asistencia o para obtener más información, comuníquese con el feligrés Wendel Hall a wendel@hallawoffice.net o llámelo al (202) 384-5793. La Abadía de San Anselmo se encuentra en 4501 South Dakota Avenue, NE, Washington DC 20017. Para más información sobre la abadía, visite <https://stanselms.org/>.

Arquidiócesis solicita la opinión de jóvenes y adultos jóvenes

¡Llamamos a todos los jóvenes de 13 a 17 años y jóvenes adultos de 18 a 39 años! La Arquidiócesis de Washington está interesada en conocer su opinión, ya que está reorientando sus prioridades y recursos para servir mejor a los jóvenes y adultos jóvenes de toda la arquidiócesis. Si usted es un joven de 13 a 17 años o un joven adulto de 18 a 39 años, acceda a la encuesta de acuerdo a su grupo representativo utilizando los códigos QR a continuación. Por favor, responda a estas encuestas antes del miércoles, 31 de diciembre. Si tiene alguna pregunta, no dude en comunicarse con la directora de Educación Religiosa, Susan Anderson, al (301) 258-9193. ¡Gracias por tomarse el tiempo para completar estas encuestas!

**ADW Youth
Survey
(ages 13-17)**

Use QR Code below
to access the survey



**ADW Young
Adult Survey
(ages 18-39)**

Use QR Code below
to access the survey



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

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:



¿Te gustaría unirte a una peregrinación del Camino Portugués?

¿Alguna vez has deseado recorrer el Camino Portugués, una ruta que va desde Portugal hasta la catedral de Santiago de Compostela en España? Si es así, únete al diácono Eugene de Ribeaux, de la parroquia de San Juan Neumann, y al padre Conor Hardy, de la parroquia de Santa María en Piscataway, para recorrer la ruta portuguesa del 2 al 11 de agosto de 2026. Aún quedan algunas plazas disponibles en esta peregrinación, pero debes inscribirte antes del 2 de enero para aprovechar el descuento por reserva anticipada. Consulta este sitio web para ver el itinerario y otros detalles: <https://www.ctscentral.net/travel-tours/camino-de-santiago>. ¡Buen camino!