



Mass Intentions

December 29, 2025 - January 4, 2026

Monday, 12/29	9:00 a.m.	Victor & Payen Family
Tuesday, 12/30	9:00 a.m.	Patrick & Mary Skees (L)
Wednesday, 12/31	9:00 a.m.	Sara Valencia & Fernando Arellano
	5:00 p.m.	<i>Pro populo</i>
Thursday, 1/1	9:00 a.m.	Emily Levandoski
	12:00 p.m.	John Sapanski
	2:00 p.m.	
Friday, 1/2	9:00 a.m.	Barbara Lynn Beall
	7:30 p.m.	Stanley Shevock
Saturday, 1/3	5:00 p.m.	<i>Pro populo</i>
Sunday, 1/4	8:00 a.m.	Theresia Susanti
	9:30 a.m.	Maria Relunia
	11:15 a.m.	Robert Michael Steinbeck
	1:00 p.m.	Gaby & Rod O'Connor & Carlos Ruben Rosales
	5:00 p.m.	Meghan Jones

+ In Memoriam Aeternam +

In your charity, please pray for the repose of the soul of Deacon Laurence Alphonsus Miles, Archdiocese of Washington.

Please pray for the sick.... Alan Butler, Peter Perera, Mary Cutting, Debbie Wheeler, John Talcott, 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 28, 2025

Sunday:	Sir 3:2-6, 12-14/Col 3:12-21 or 3:12-17/ Ps 128:1-2, 3, 4-5/Mt 2:13-15, 19-23
Monday:	1 Jn 2:3-11/Ps 96:1-2a, 2b-3, 5b-6/Lk 2:22-35
Tuesday:	1 Jn 2:12-17/Ps 96:7-8a, 8b-9, 10/Lk 2:36-40
Wednesday:	1 Jn 2:18-21/Ps 96:1-2, 11-12, 13/Jn 1:1-18
Thursday:	Nm 6:22-27/Ps 67:2-3, 5, 6 and 8/Gal 4:4-7/ Lk 2:16-21
Friday:	1 Jn 2:22-28/Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4/Jn 1:19-28
Saturday:	1 Jn 2:29-3:6/Ps 98:1, 3cd-4, 5-6/Jn 1:29-34
Next Sunday:	Is 60:1-6/Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13/ Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6/Mt 2:1-12

STEWARSHIP REPORT

Figures were not available at the time of publication.

Thank you for your continued support!

THE MUSINGS OF THE PASTOR

For my message today, I want to use something that I wrote nearly seven years ago, as it remains very timely.

In addition to being the first day of the New Year, January 1, 2019, was the fifty-second World Day of Peace. Pope Francis has made several observations about good politics being at the service of peace in his message for the World Day of Peace. In talking about the challenge of good politics, Pope Francis noted that “Political office and political responsibility thus constantly challenge those called to the service of their country to make every effort to protect those who live there and to create the conditions for a worthy and just future. If exercised with basic respect for life, freedom and dignity of persons, political life can indeed become an outstanding form of charity.

In his message for the fifty-second World Day of Peace, Pope Francis recalled the “Beatitudes of the Politician,” proposed by Vietnamese Cardinal François-Xavier Nguyễn Văn Thuận (1928-2002):

Blessed be the politician with a lofty sense and deep understanding of his role.

Blessed be the politician who personally exemplifies credibility.

Blessed be the politician who works for the common good and not for his or her own interest.

Blessed be the politician who remains constant.

Blessed be the politician who works for unity.

Blessed be the politician who works to accomplish radical change.

Blessed be the politician who is capable of listening.

Blessed be the politician who is without fear.

After quoting these “Beatitudes of the Politician,” Pope Francis observed that every election and re-election, and every stage of public life, is an opportunity to return to the original point of reference that inspire justice and law. The Holy Father believed that it was certain that good politics is at the service of peace. Good politics also respected and promoted fundamental human rights, which were at the same time mutual obligations that enabled a bond of trust and gratitude to be forged between present and future generations.

At the end of his message for the fifty-second World Day of Peace, Pope Francis recalled that we celebrated the seventieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which was adopted in the wake of the Second World War. In this context, it is also good to remember the observation of Pope Saint John XXIII: “Man’s awareness of his rights must inevitably lead him to the recognition of his duties. The possession of rights involves a duty of implementing those rights, for they are the expression of a man’s personal dignity. And the possession of rights also involves their recognition and respect by others.”

Pope Francis continued his observations by noting that peace was the fruit of a great political project grounded in the mutual responsibility and interdependence of human beings. It was at the same time a challenge that demanded being taken up ever anew. Peace entailed a conversion of heart and soul. Peace was both interior and communal and had three inseparable aspects

Continued in the column to the right.....

DONATIONS THROUGH #IGIVECATHOLIC CAMPAIGN YIELD \$15,000 IN FINANCIAL GIFTS
 Thank you to the 39 parish households that contributed just over \$15,000 to our #iGiveCatholic Giving Tuesday campaign! In response to an appeal from Fr. John Dillon and a letter detailing our parish's financial condition, our parishioners gave most generously to boost our parish income stream under the umbrella of this national giving campaign to encourage generosity among Catholics. These contributions will help pay for our parish's ongoing operating expenses – including paying salaries, keeping the lights on, and providing faith formation materials – and will help cushion our parish during leaner months. We are grateful to all our parishioners for offering their financial gifts, their talents, and their prayers to our parish. May God bless you all, as we look forward to the new year!

**PARISH MINISTRY FAIR
COMING UP IN JUST TWO WEEKS**

Have you wondered how you might serve our parish better? If so, then please plan to stop by our parish Ministry Fair after all Masses on January 10-11 in the Gathering Space and the Kuehner Room. There will be displays set up throughout these spaces, so our church members can peruse, ask questions, and sign up for a ministry or three.

Sponsored by the Parish Pastoral Council, the Ministry Fair aims to help parishioners grow spiritually, and in community, by connecting them with ministry opportunities to serve. For more information, please contact

Ministry Fair Coordinators
 Marianne Deausen at deausenmr@gmail.com,
 Chris King at caking.home@gmail.com,
 Ann Pierre at pierre35@hotmail.com.

Thank you!



JANUARY 1 IS THE SOLEMNITY OF MARY, MOTHER OF GOD

Did you know that January 1 is a *Holy Day of Obligation*? On Wednesday, January 1, the Catholic Church celebrates the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God, a Marian feast day that commemorates Mary as the mother of Jesus and emphasizes her significance in the life of Jesus. At St. Francis, here is the Mass schedule for the solemnity:

**December 31 5pm Vigil Mass
January 1 9 am, 12 pm (English)
2 pm (Spanish)**

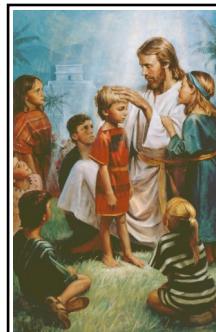
SAVE YOUR GENTLY USED WINTER COATS FOR THE CATHOLIC CHARITIES COAT DRIVE

Did you get any new winter coats for Christmas? If so, then please save any gently used outerwear you have for the Catholic Charities Coat Drive from January 12-22, 2026. During that timeframe, please drop off any coats in good condition to the marked receptacle in the Gathering Space. The donations will be picked up by Catholic Charities and made available to people in need of warm outerwear this winter. Thanks for your generosity! For more information, contact Director of Social Concerns and Adult Faith Formation Tony Bosnick at abosnick@sfadw.org.

THE MUSINGS OF THE PASTOR (continued)

- Peace with oneself, rejecting inflexibility, anger, and impatience; in the words of St. Francis de Sales, showing a bit of sweetness toward oneself" in order to offer "a bit of sweetness to others;"
- Peace with others: family members, friends, strangers, the poor and the suffering, being unafraid to encounter them and listen to what they have to say;
- Peace with all creation, rediscovering the grandeur of God's gift and our individual and share responsibility as inhabitants of this world and citizens and builders of the future.

In his concluding remarks Pope Francis stated that the politics of peace, conscious of and deeply concerned for every situation of human vulnerability, can always draw inspiration from the Magnificat, the hymn that Mary, the Mother of Christ the Savior and Prince of Peace, sang in the name of all humankind: "He has mercy on those who fear him in every generation. He has shown the strength of his arms; he has scattered the proud in their conceit. He has down the mighty from their thrones and has lifted up the lowly...for he has remembered his promise of mercy, the promise he made to our fathers, to Abraham and his children forever" (Luke 1:50-55). **Happy New Year! Fr. John**



JOIN US AT THE MASS FOR ALL GOD'S CHILDREN AT 5PM ON THE FEAST OF THE EPIPHANY

On Sunday, January 4 – the Feast of the Epiphany – come at 5 pm to our church for the Mass for All God's Children, a liturgical celebration marking the gifts people with special needs bring to our Church. To celebrate the gifts of all God's children, most liturgical roles of the Mass – including the altar servers, lectors, ushers, gift bearers, choir members and readers of the Prayer of the Faithful – will be filled by teens and young adults with special needs. Afterward, we'll celebrate with a reception in the Gathering Space.

If you or one of your family members are interested in a role at the Mass, then please contact Special Events Ministry Coordinator Sylvia Jones at (240) 755-2247 or at (301) 762-6564. **All are welcome!**



2025-26 RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

RE CLASS SCHEDULE & THE CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS

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.
- Monday and Tuesday RE classes **resume** on January 5 and 6.
- Sunday RE classes **resume** on January 11.

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.

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.



JANUARY SERIES!

January 14 – Service Night

Come make care packages for people in need. All materials, music and snacks provided. Meet in Parish Center from 7pm – 8:30pm.

January 23 – Youth Mass for Life

Diocesan Youth Mass for Life at St. Matthew's Cathedral. 7am – 10am.

January 28 – Youth Night

Join us for scripture, games and fellowship. Meet in Parish Center from 7pm – 8:30pm.

Email Francesca Santos at sfayouth@sfadw.org to register.

ENROLLMENT NOW OPEN FOR THE 2026-2027 SCHOOL YEAR!

St. Jude Rockville staff are excited to announce that enrollment is now open at **St. Jude Regional Catholic School** for the 2026–2027 school year. At St. Jude, your children will deepen their relationship with God, learn to see others as children of Christ, and receive one of the top Catholic educations in the Archdiocese of Washington. Our pillars, **Faith, Unity, and Educational Excellence** guide everything we do as we nurture the spiritual, academic, and personal growth of each child. To begin the registration process, please visit our school website. Archdiocesan tuition assistance is open and closes in February. Please apply for this assistance now, before it closes. For more information or to schedule a tour, please contact Principal Jeanne Donatelli at [Jeanne.Donatelli@stjurerockville.org](mailto:Jeanne.Donatelli@stjuderockville.org).

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.

PARISH OFFICES WILL BE CLOSED

**WEDNESDAY & THURSDAY
DECEMBER 31, JANUARY 1**

FOR THE NEW YEAR'S HOLIDAY

Happy New Year from Fr. John, Fr. G & the Parish Staff!

ST. MARTIN'S FOOD PANTRY SHORTAGES

Only need for this week is approximately 700 cans of soup per week. This is the amount given out each week at this time.

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

Your donations supported 248 families this past week. God Bless You! Thank you for your support.

Music Notes

The beloved Christmas carol, "O Come, All Ye Faithful" is the work of two Englishmen, living 100 years apart, in two different countries. John Francis Wade, the author of the original Latin text, *Adestes Fidelis, Laeti triumphantes*, was a Catholic layman living in Lancashire, England. He endured persecution after the Jacobite rebellion of 1745, as did other English Catholics at that time, and was forced to flee to France. While in France, Wade worked as a musician and became a gifted copyist of musical scores. Seven manuscripts of this hymn are known, dating between 1743 and 1761, and all bear Wade's signature. Eventually, the situation improved for Catholics in England, and this hymn travelled back to England with English Catholics. In the mid 1800's, the Rev. Frederick Oakeley, an Anglican priest who later converted and became a Catholic priest, came across Wade's Christmas carol. Oakeley served as a translator of Latin hymns during the Oxford Movement and worked with Cardinal John Henry Newman, a leader in the movement. Oakeley gave us the English translation that we now sing. *O Come let us adore him, Christ the Lord.*

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



QUESTION OF THE WEEK

As the tumultuous year comes to the end, what can I do for those who are strangers in a strange land?



OUR EXPERIENCE WITH THE ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY

The call comes into the helpline, "My electricity (or my water) is going to be shut off. Can you help me?" Or "I am past due with my rent and I may be evicted. Could you call me back?"

The St. Vincent de Paul Society receives many such calls. And one wonders: why is this Neighbor in Need behind in their payments?

During the home visit, the story is given. Often, it involves a serious illness so someone hasn't been able to work. Or it could be a car accident where an injury is sustained and that person is unable to work, plus their car is damaged.

You or I could be this Neighbor in Need.

What would Jesus do? Did he help those who came to him?

We, as Vincentians, try to be compassionate, to be a listening ear, and, if appropriate, help alleviate this immediate need. Our help can give this person hope to keep trying.

The St. Vincent de Paul Society cannot assist every Neighbor in Need. Some financial and family issues are just too great. We provide information about other resources in the area. We pray with and for those who are in crisis.

Thank you to all those from this wonderful community at St. Francis of Assisi who have helped with a financial donation this year. We always have another call with another need.

Thank you also for your ongoing prayers. With your help, the St. Vincent de Paul Society will be able to continue Christ's work here in this area. If you would like to donate to the St. Vincent de Paul Society of St. Francis, then please write a check out to the 'St. Vincent de Paul Society' and either mail it or drop it off at the Parish Office. Thank you!

Sue and Milt Madison

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 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.

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



EUCARISTIC ADORATION

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

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

All are welcome to attend.

Anuncios del boletín para del 28 de diciembre de 2025:

Donaciones a través de la campaña #iGiveCatholic generan \$15,000 en donaciones financieras

¡Gracias a los 39 hogares de la parroquia que contribuyeron con más de \$15,000 a nuestra campaña #iGiveCatholic del Martes de Donaciones! En respuesta a una solicitud del Padre John Dillon y a una carta que detallaba la situación financiera de nuestra parroquia, nuestros feligreses donaron \$15,150 para aumentar los ingresos de nuestra parroquia en el marco de esta campaña nacional de donaciones para fomentar la generosidad entre los católicos. Estas contribuciones ayudarán a cubrir los gastos operativos de nuestra parroquia, incluyendo el pago de salarios, el mantenimiento de las luces y la provisión de materiales de formación en la fe, y ayudarán a nuestra parroquia a afrontar los meses de escasez.

Agradecemos a todos nuestros feligreses por ofrecer sus donaciones financieras, sus talentos y sus oraciones a nuestra parroquia. ¡Que Dios los bendiga a todos mientras esperamos con ansias el nuevo año!

Feria de Ministerios Parroquiales en Solo Dos Semanas

¿Se ha preguntado cómo podría servir mejor a nuestra parroquia? Si es así, le invitamos a visitar nuestra Feria de Ministerios parroquial después de todas las misas del 10 y 11 de enero en el Espacio de Reunión y la Sala Kuehner. Habrá exhibiciones en estos espacios para que los feligreses puedan examinarlas, hacer preguntas e inscribirse en uno o tres ministerios.

Patrocinada por el Consejo Pastoral Parroquial, la Feria de Ministerios busca ayudar a los feligreses a crecer espiritualmente y en comunidad, conectándolos con oportunidades de ministerio. Para más información, comuníquese con las coordinadoras de la Feria de Ministerios, Marianne Deausen, en deausenmr@gmail.com, Chris King, en caking.home@gmail.com, o Ann Pierre, en pierre35@hotmail.com. ¡Gracias!



Acompáñenos a la Misa por Todos los Hijos de Dios a las 5 p. m. en la Fiesta de la Epifanía.

El domingo, 4 de enero, Fiesta de la Epifanía, venga a nuestra iglesia a las 5 p. m. para la Misa por Todos los Hijos de Dios, una celebración litúrgica que celebra los dones que las personas con necesidades especiales aportan a nuestra Iglesia. Para celebrar los dones de todos los hijos de Dios, la mayoría de las funciones litúrgicas de la Misa —incluyendo monaguillos, lectores, acomodadores, portadores de ofrendas, miembros del coro y lectores de la Oración de los Fieles— estarán a cargo de adolescentes y jóvenes adultos con necesidades especiales. Después, celebraremos con una recepción en el Espacio de Reunión.

Si usted o algún familiar está interesado en participar en algún rol en la Misa, comuníquese con Sylvia Jones, Coordinadora del Ministerio de Eventos Especiales, al (240) 755-2247 o al (301) 762-6564. ¡Todos son bienvenidos!

Guarda tu ropa de invierno usada para la colecta de abrigos de Caridades Católicas.

¿Recibiste abrigos nuevos para Navidad? Si es así, guarda cualquier ropa usada que tengas para la colecta de abrigos de Caridades Católicas de 12-22 de enero de 2026. Durante ese período, deja tus abrigos en buen estado en el contenedor indicado en el Espacio de Reunión. Caridades Católicas recogerá las donaciones y las pondrá a disposición de quienes necesiten ropa de abrigo este invierno.

¡Gracias por tu generosidad! Para más información, contacta con Tony Bosnick, Director de Asuntos Sociales y Formación en la Fe para Adultos, en abosnick@sfadw.org.

Notas Musicales

El entrañable villancico “*Oh Come, All Ye Faithful*” (*Venid, todos los fieles*) es obra de dos ingleses que vivieron con 100 años de diferencia, en dos países diferentes. John Francis Wade, autor del texto original en latín, *Adeste Fidelis, Laeti triumphantes*, fue un laico católico residente en Lancashire, Inglaterra. Sufrió persecución tras la rebelión jacobita de 1745, al igual que otros católicos ingleses de la época, y se vio obligado a huir a Francia. Durante su estancia en Francia, Wade trabajó como músico y se convirtió en un talentoso copista de partituras. Se conocen siete manuscritos de este himno, datados entre 1743 y 1761, y todos llevan la firma de Wade. Con el tiempo, la situación para los católicos en Inglaterra mejoró, y este himno regresó a Inglaterra con los católicos ingleses. A mediados del siglo XIX, el reverendo Frederick Oakeley, sacerdote anglicano que posteriormente se convirtió al catolicismo, se topó con el villancico de Wade. Oakeley se desempeñó como traductor de himnos latinos durante el Movimiento de Oxford y colaboró con el cardenal John Henry Newman, líder del movimiento. Oakeley nos proporcionó la traducción al inglés que ahora cantamos. *Oh Come let us adore him, Christ the Lord* (*Venid, adorémosle, Cristo el Señor*).

Inscripciones abiertas para el año escolar 2026-2027!

El personal de St. Jude Rockville se complace en anunciar que las inscripciones ya están abiertas en la Escuela Católica Regional St. Jude para el año escolar 2026-2027. En St. Jude, sus hijos profundizarán su relación con Dios, aprenderán a ver a los demás como hijos de Cristo y recibirán una de las mejores educaciones católicas de la Arquidiócesis de Washington.

Nuestros pilares, la fe, la unidad y la excelencia educativa, guían todo lo que hacemos mientras fomentamos el crecimiento espiritual, académico y personal de cada niño.