

ST FRANCIS OF ASSISI, DERWOOD

Mass Intentions

January 5 - January 11, 2026

Monday, 1/5	9:00 a.m.	Xavier Joseph
Tuesday, 1/6	9:00 a.m.	Dr. Hector Asuncion
Wednesday, 1/7	9:00 a.m.	Alex O'Connor
	7:30 p.m.	Daniel Campbell
Thursday, 1/8	9:00 a.m.	Tom Boyce
Friday, 1/9	9:00 a.m.	George Beall
Saturday, 1/10	5:00 p.m.	Robert Karam
Sunday, 1/11	8:00 a.m.	<i>Pro populo</i>
	9:30 a.m.	Rosemarie Rippel
	11:15 a.m.	Rich Graves
	1:00 p.m.	Ginia Bedini
	5:00 p.m.	Mr. & Mrs. E. T. Joseph

+ In Memoriam Aeternam +

In your charity, please pray for the repose of the souls Emmanuel Estampador, husband of Roselyn Estampador.

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 January 4, 2026

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
Monday:	1 Jn 3:22-4:6/Ps 2:7bc-8, 10-12a/ Mt 4:12-17, 23-25
Tuesday:	1 Jn 4:7-10/Ps 72:1-2, 3-4, 7-8/Mk 6:34-44
Wednesday:	1 Jn 4:11-18/Ps 72:1-2, 10, 12-13/Mk 6:45-52
Thursday:	1 Jn 4:19-5:4/Ps 72:1-2, 14 and 15bc, 17/ Lk 4:14-22a
Friday:	1 Jn 5:5-13/Ps 147:12-13, 14-15, 19-20/ Lk 5:12-16
Saturday:	1 Jn 5:14-21/Ps 149:1-2, 3-4, 5 and 6a and 9b/ Jn 3:22-30
Next Sunday:	Is 42:1-4, 6-7/Ps 29:1-2, 3-4, 3, 9-10/ Acts 10:34-38/Mt 3:13-17

STEWARDSHIP REPORT

Figures were not available at the time of publication.

Thank you for your continued support!

THE MUSINGS OF THE PASTOR

As we celebrate the Epiphany today, I find myself thinking about the Holy Family. When they had to flee to Egypt to avoid the raging King Herod who wanted to murder the Christ child because Herod feared this child under two years of age was destined to seize his throne. The Holy Family was fleeing for their lives from murder and violence—just as many families are doing today. Herod wanted no rivals, so this child had to die. As we know so well, the Holy Innocents of Bethlehem perished instead. Both Christian and Muslim Arabs are fleeing today from danger in the hope of finding safety and a better life where they can survive and hopefully thrive. These are very legitimate aspirations. At the same time many are afraid of terrorist activity and want to remain safe in their homes, their schools, and their businesses. Ten years ago, Cardinal Séan P. O'Malley wrote about this on December 17, 2015, in the opinion section of TheBostonPilot.com. In "Walking in the Path of the Good Samaritan," Cardinal O'Malley said that we must be careful about security, but we also must avoid allowing the darkness of hatred and prejudice to poison our hearts. Let me quote some of the things he mentions in his article as they are well worth pondering in this Christmas season:

We cannot afford to be sloppy about security, but we must guard against letting the darkness of hatred and prejudice poison our own hearts. Since there so few Muslims in our country, it is likely that there are many Americans who don't have any Muslim friends or don't even know anyone personally who professes Islam. American Muslims are much less apt to be radicalized than their European counterparts. The Muslims here are economically better off, better educated, and much better integrated into the mainstream. And although Muslims comprise only 1 percent of our population, 10 percent of our doctors (20,000) in the United States are Muslim, my own [Cardinal O'Malley's] dentist, here in Boston, is Iranian and Muslim...

This Year of Mercy is an invitation to live our faith more fully by seeking ways to reflect God's love and mercy in the way that we treat each other. In the beautiful parable of the Good Samaritan, Jesus teaches us that the true neighbor is the one who shows mercy. In the case of the Samaritan, it was not just a matter of reacting with compassion in the face of a suffering human being, it also required him to overcome any personal prejudice or animosity that he would have felt toward the religion and ethnicity of the wounded man. The Samaritans felt rejected and despised by the people of the chosen race, and often acted accordingly, as when they refused Jesus and the Apostles hospitality. There was a Cold War between the Samaritans and the Israelites, and so the Samaritan's act of kindness was at the same time an act of forgiveness, an act of renouncing prejudice and group hatred. Jesus ends the parable by saying, "Go and do likewise."

As we mull over the debate about the refugees, let us remember the doors that were closed in the face of Mary and Joseph in Bethlehem. We must ask our leaders to be vigilant and protect our citizens, but at the same time we cannot turn our back on so many innocent people who are hungry, homeless, and without a country.

Continued in the column to the right....

January 4, 2026

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?



2026 WEDDING ANNIVERSARY MASS

This year Bishop Evelio Menjivar-Ayala will celebrate the Annual Wedding anniversary Mass to honor the Vocation of Marriage on **Saturday, February 14, 2026**, 10:00 a.m. at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception. This Annual Mass is a celebration of the living vocation of all couples who provide a Catholic witness to the beauty of the Sacrament of Matrimony. Couples must register with the parish office by Wednesday, February 4, 2026 to attend the Mass and/or receive a certificate from Cardinal Robert McElroy in honor of their anniversary year.

**ALTAR GUILD MEETING
SATURDAY, JANUARY 24 @ 10 AM**

If you are a current member of the St. Francis Altar Guild or would like to become an Altar Guild member please plan to attend a meeting on Saturday, January 24 at 10 am in the Kuehner Room. For additional information or questions, please call Donna in the Parish Office, 301-840-1407.

**MONTHLY BLOOD PRESSURE SCREENING
ON JANUARY 10 AND 11**

St. Francis Health Ministry volunteers will offer monthly blood pressure screenings after Masses in the St. Clare Room on the second weekend 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.

THE MUSINGS OF THE PASTOR (continued)

I do not believe it is a matter of choosing one course over the other, we can be both vigilant and compassionate. America is truly great when we do not succumb to fear and prejudice, but rather when we walk boldly in the path of the Good Samaritan.

Until next week,
Fr. John

**PARISH MINISTRY FAIR
COMING UP IN JUST ONE WEEK**

It takes the full body of Christ to be a Church! If you would like to contribute to our church by serving in a liturgical, faith formation, administrative, or social concerns ministry, then please plan to attend the 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 parishioners can walk around, ask questions, and sign up for a ministry.

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!



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

Do you have any winter coats that you no longer need? If so, then please set them aside for the Catholic Charities Coat Drive from January 12-22, 2026.

During that timeframe, please drop off any winter 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.

**CONCRETE WORK FUNDED BY OUR
CAPITAL CAMPAIGN IS COMPLETE**

As we begin the new year, please check out the recently completed new concrete work on the parish grounds that are part of the campus improvements funded through our recent capital campaign. Last month, two concrete companies completed restoration of the Rectory steps, the two short flights of steps leading to the church's side entrances, and the long staircase near the outside entrance of the Parish Center to the church level. They also installed three new yellow metal mats at the church's entrance that make it compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act and built a new sidewalk with hand railing that connects the area near the Parish Center main entrance to the walkway leading to the nearest side entrance of the church.

We would like to thank all those parishioners who contributed to the capital campaign for helping make these campus improvements a reality. We'd also like to thank Deacon Jim Datovech and parishioner Brian Pettit for their work in orchestrating the work and seeing it through to fruition.



2025-26 RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

RE CLASS SCHEDULE & THE CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS

- There are **NO** Religious Education classes today, Sunday, January 4. Sunday RE classes **resume** on January 11.
- Monday and Tuesday RE classes **resume** on January 5 and 6.

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.

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, January 11, 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.

HOMESCHOOL RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PARENT MEETING: JANUARY 11

Parents of children registered for our Homeschool Option Religious Education Program are asked to join us by Zoom at 1 pm next Sunday, January 11, for our Unit 3 Overview. Families registered for the Homeschool option will receive an email with link to join.

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.



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@stjuderockville.org.

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

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.

HEALTH MINISTRY SEEKS SPANISH SPEAKING VOLUNTEERS FOR MONTHLY BLOOD PRESSURE SCREENINGS

To provide blood pressure screenings after each Mass more volunteers to perform this service are needed. The Health Ministry welcomes back former volunteers and invites parishioners with medical/clinical training to join this team. Former and new volunteers will choose the Mass convenient for them in the hope that monthly blood pressure screening will be available after all Masses. For more information or to volunteer, contact Health Ministry Coordinator Betty Baklarz at (301) 412-1909 or at lbbaklarz@yahoo.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.



EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

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

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

All are welcome to attend.



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

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

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. For additional information or questions, please call 301-253-8740 or email oldedish@starpower.net.

SAVE THE DATE FOR THE HAITI BENEFIT CONCERT ON FEBRUARY 21

Needing to escape your winter doldrums? If so, then save the date for the next Haiti Benefit Concert on Saturday, February 21, in the church. The Music Ministry will be welcoming The Baltimore Consort, an ensemble of six musicians, to perform at this free concert, which will be followed by a reception in the Gathering Space. At-will donations to benefit the Haiti Medical Mission would be much appreciated! For more information, please contact Music Director Janet Pate at sfadwmu-sic@gmail.com or Haiti Ministry Coordinator Dan Cardile at dancardile@yahoo.com.

COME ATTEND MASS ON JANUARY 18 TO COMMEMORATE DR. KING'S LEGACY!

As we observe Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day on January 19, Archbishop Robert Cardinal McElroy will celebrate an archdiocesan Mass at 10:30 am Sunday, January 18, to remember the slain civil rights leader. With a theme of *The Church and the Dream: Building Peace Through Justice*, the archdiocesan Mass will be held at the Shrine of St. Jude Thaddeus Catholic Church at 12701 Veirs Mill Road in Rockville.

YOUNG ADULT SPRING BIBLE STUDY

The Silver Spring Catholic young adult fellowship is hosting a bible study on The Gospel of Matthew. The series runs January 12 through April 27, Mondays at 7pm in the Religious Education building at Christ the King parish (2301 Colston Dr). Please visit SSCatholicFellowship@gmail.com; [facebook.com/SilverSpringCatholic](https://www.facebook.com/SilverSpringCatholic); Instagram @SilverSpringYA for additional information or questions.

FOR SINGLE CATHOLICS

26th ANNUAL EPIPHANY PARTY

St. Raphael Church, 1513 Dunster Rd., Rockville, MD 20854; SATURDAY, JANUARY 17, 2026; starting at 7 PM. BLACK TIE OPTIONAL. Includes delicious Ledo's lasagna dinner, complementary wine and beer, DJ, and more. (Usual age range - 21-50s) Send \$23 check donation by January 10 to SCS Epiphany Party, St. Raphael, 1590 Kimblewick Rd., Rockville, MD 20854, Or \$25 by credit card at <https://www.paypal.com/biz/fund?id=AJLD5F4VY43NE> by January 12, or \$28 cash, card or check at the door. For more info. email Fr. T. Morrow at tgmmorrow1@gmail.com.

Anuncios del boletín para el 4 de enero 2026:

Feria de Ministerio Parroquial en solo una semana

¿Se necesita todo el cuerpo de Cristo para ser una Iglesia! Si desea contribuir a nuestra iglesia sirviendo en un ministerio litúrgico, de formación en la fe, administrativo o de asuntos sociales, por favor planee asistir a la Feria del Ministerio parroquial después de todas las misas del 10 al 11 de enero en el Espacio de Reunión y en la Sala Kuehner. Habrá exposiciones en todos estos espacios, para que nuestros feligreses puedan pasear, hacer preguntas y inscribirse en un ministerio.

Patrocinada por el Consejo Pastoral Parroquial, la Feria del Ministerio tiene como objetivo ayudar a los feligreses a crecer espiritualmente y en comunidad, conectándolos con oportunidades ministeriales para servir. Para más información, por favor contacte con los coordinadores de la Feria del Ministerio Marianne Deausen en deaus-enmr@gmail.com, Chris King en ca-king.home@gmail.com o Ann Pierre en pie-rea35@hotmail.com. ¡Gracias!



Guarde su ropa exterior de invierno usada en buen estado para la colecta de abrigos de Catholic Charities

¿Tiene abrigos de invierno que ya no necesita? Si es así, por favor resérvelos para la Colecta de Abrigos de Caridades Católicas del 12 al 22 de enero de 2026.

Durante ese periodo, por favor deje cualquier abrigo de invierno en buen estado en el recipiente marcado del Espacio de Reunión. Las donaciones serán recogidas por Caridades Católicas y estarán disponibles para personas que necesiten ropa exterior de abrigo este invierno.

¡Gracias por vuestra generosidad! Para más información, contacte con el Director de Preocupaciones Sociales y Formación en la Fe para Adultos, Tony Bosnick, en abos-nick@sfadw.org.

Reserve la fecha para el Concierto Benéfico en Haití el 21 de febrero

¿Necesita escapar de la calma invernal? Si es así, reserve la fecha para el próximo Concierto Benéfico de Haití el sábado 21 de febrero, en la iglesia. El Ministerio de Música dará la bienvenida a The Baltimore Consort, un conjunto de seis músicos, para que actúen en este concierto gratuito, que será seguido de una recepción en el Gathering Space. ¡Donaciones a voluntad para beneficiar a la Misión Médica de Haití serían muy apreciadas!

Para más información, por favor contacte con la directora musical Janet Pate en sfadwmusic@gmail.com o con el coordinador del Ministerio de Haití, Dan Cardile, en dan-cardile@yahoo.com.

¡Únase a nuestros eventos de ministerio juvenil este mes!

¿Tiene adolescentes en edad de instituto que buscan crecer junto a sus compañeros en Jesús? Si es así, por favor, que consulten nuestro Ministerio Juvenil parroquial. El mes pasado, nuestro Ministerio Juvenil inauguró sus eventos participando en el Torneo de Dodgeball CYO, quedando en segundo lugar. Con ese impresionante comienzo, los jóvenes ahora esperan con ilusión los eventos de enero, que incluyen una Noche de Servicio el 14 de enero; la misa arquidiocesana por la vida el 23 de enero; y una Noche de la Juventud en nuestra parroquia el 28 de enero.

Venga a ver de qué trata nuestro Ministerio Juvenil de San Francisco de Asís o visítenos en <https://www.sfadw.org/youth-grades-9-12>. Los jóvenes pueden inscribirse en diversas actividades accediendo al formulario de inscripción de Google en el folleto 'Serie de Enero' en la página de Ministerio Juvenil. Para más información, por favor contacte con nuestra coordinadora juvenil parroquial, Francesca Santos, en sfayouth@sfadw.org.



MISA DE ANIVERSARIO DE BODAS DE 2026

Este año, el Obispo Mons. Evelio Menjivar-Ayalapresidirá la Misa de Aniversario de Bodas para celebrar la Vocación al Matrimonio el sábado 14 de febrero de 2026 a las 10:00 a.m. en la Basílica del Santuario Nacional de la Inmaculada Concepción. Esta celebración pone de relieve el testimonio de la vocación católica al matrimonio y de la belleza del plan de Dios para la vida matrimonial. Se invita a las parejas a inscribirse, antes del 6 de febrero de 2026, en la oficina parroquial para asistir a la Misa o para recibir un certificado firmado por el Cardenal Robert McElroy como homenaje a su aniversario de bodas.

