



Mass Intentions

January 12 - January 18, 2026

Monday, 1/12	9:00 a.m.	George Beall
Tuesday, 1/13	9:00 a.m.	Christine Vilgos-Mitchell
Wednesday, 1/14	9:00 a.m.	Don & Peg Smith
	7:30 p.m.	Elena Cabada
Thursday, 1/15	9:00 a.m.	Ruben V. Masalonga (L)
Friday, 1/16	9:00 a.m.	John Guild
Saturday, 1/17	5:00 p.m.	Jeffrey Koscinski
Sunday, 1/18	8:00 a.m.	Rommel Yaeto
	9:30 a.m.	Zenaida Nabor
	11:15 a.m.	<i>Pro populo</i>
	1:00 p.m.	Jackeline Hernandez
	5:00 p.m.	Abner Cauton

+ In Memoriam Aeternam +

In your charity, please pray for the repose of the souls of Sheldon Michael Wong, brother of Reverend Stephen Wong, St. Joseph's Parish, Carol Elizabeth Dinan, sister of Msgr. John Enzler, Emmanuel Estampador, husband of Rosalyn Estampador, Mary Frances Arbaiza, wife of Joseph Arbaiza, Elizabeth Veronica O'Grady.

Please pray for the sick....Delrin Alexander, Romana Gomes, 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 11, 2026

Sunday:	Is 42:1-4, 6-7/Ps 29:1-2, 3-4, 3, 9-10/ Acts 10:34-38/Mt 3:13-17
Monday:	1 Sm 1:1-8/Ps 116:12-13, 14-17, 18-19/ Mk 1:14-20
Tuesday:	1 Sm 1:9-20/1 Sam 2:1, 4-5, 6-7, 8abcd/ Mk 1:21-28
Wednesday:	1 Sm 3:1-10, 19-20/Ps 40:2 and 5, 7-8a, 8b-9, 10/Mk 1:29-39
Thursday:	1 Sm 4:1-11/Ps 44:10-11, 14-15, 24-25/ Mk 1:40-45
Friday:	1 Sm 8:4-7, 10-22a/Ps 89:16-17, 18-19/ Mk 2:1-12
Saturday:	1 Sm 9:1-4, 17-19; 10:1a/Ps 21:2-3, 4-5, 6-7/ Mk 2:13-17
Next Sunday:	Is 49:3, 5-6/Ps 40:2 and 4, 7-8, 8-9, 10/ 1 Cor 1:1-3/Jn 1:29-34

THE MUSINGS OF THE PASTOR

The beginning of the year is a time when we make resolutions about things we could put into practice in the New Year. To that end, let me offer some good advice on parish etiquette as we are at the beginning of a New Year. These reflections were first presented by Barbara Budde in a pamphlet (which is no longer in print) for the National Pastoral Life Center. Let me mention some things that we could do to prepare well for the Sunday liturgy.

PREPARING FOR LITURGY

Preparing for liturgy—mentally, spiritually, and physically—speaks of its importance and value to us. When people come to worship completely unprepared and seemingly not at home, we welcome them in charity as newcomers or as seekers who have joined the assembly at the urging of the Spirit. As a rule of thumb, though, good preparation for worship makes every experience richer and more rewarding.

- Schedule liturgy into the family or household weekend activities.
- Plan ahead as you would for any important occasion.
- Prepare for Mass in your household as part of your observance of the Lord's Day.
- Allow enough time to account for any transportation problems (traffic or parking) that might arise.

Dressing Appropriately

As “business casual” has become the dress code in some workplaces, it is becoming more difficult to know whether dressing up for Sunday Mass is necessary. Liturgy is the Lord’s inclusive banquet, but it is neither a state dinner nor a beach picnic. So, what is the dress code? The answer isn’t always clear since customs differ. What is appropriate at a parish located at a beach resort may be much more informal than what is appropriate at the downtown cathedral. Thought, charity, and flexibility are required by all parishioners, lest looking at what people wear become the near occasion of sin called “judging.”

- Choose clothing that will not be distracting to you or to others.
- Notice regional and ethnic expectations regarding Sunday dress.
- Err on the side of dressing up, not down; presume that most people will wear their best, most appropriate clothing, and do likewise.

Next week I shall talk about arriving and leaving, particularly I want to make some suggestions about what to do if Mass has already begun or if you need to leave early.

Until next week,

Fr. John Dillon

QUESTION OF THE WEEK

This coming week, in what way can I be a servant of the Lord with tenderness and compassion?



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.



DONATE YOUR GENTLY USED WINTER OUTERWEAR TO THE CATHOLIC CHARITIES COAT DRIVE

Did you get a new winter coat for Christmas? If so, then please donate your gently used coats to the Catholic Charities Coat Drive from January 12-22.

Parishioners are invited to 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.

If you can help sort coats, then please come to the Gathering Space at 9:30 am Thursday, January 22, to help with this task before they are picked up. For more information, contact Director of Social Concerns and Adult Faith Formation Tony Bosnick at abosnick@sfadw.org.

2026 MARCH FOR LIFE- JANUARY 23

Knights of Columbus Council 2323 invites Saint Francis parishioners to join us at the 2026 National March for Life on Friday, January 23. We are gathering at St. Mary's Church parking lot between 9 and 10 AM. A short walk to the Metro station to ride downtown to the Mall. Details online at marchforlife.org, including the parade route.

WELCOME to the Family of Christ!

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

Michael Arias & Lea Vanessa Alhambra
Karl & Joni Hamill
Ronald Paiz & Lorena Ochoa

The following children were baptized during the month of December:

Levi Stewart Bannister
Sebastian Kerr Martin
Christian King Morales

A THANK YOU FROM THE NEW NEIGHBOR INTERFAITH ALLIANCE

Members of the New Neighbor Interfaith Alliance (NNIA) would like to express our deep appreciation to St. Francis parishioners who contributed to our fundraising efforts through the Spirit Tree project and Alternative Christmas cards. We were simply amazed at your generosity. Please know that your gifts support the day-to-day needs of over 120 families. The gift cards are being used to purchase groceries, clothing, and necessary household items. The money donated to purchase Alternative Christmas cards will be used to support emergency needs (medical, dental, transportation, etc.) of our families. We also want to thank Parish Secretary Donna Zezzo and Alternative Christmas Gift Co-Ministry Coordinator Doris Chung for their support in making these projects so successful. In these difficult times, we are comforted in knowing that we can rely on our St. Francis community to help our vulnerable families feel supported on their way to independence. May our loving God continue to bless each one of you in the coming year.

WOMEN, JOIN THE GOSPEL OF JOHN BIBLE STUDY ON JANUARY 22

Two Walking With Purpose women's bible studies here at St. Francis concluded this fall. But the *Touching the Divine: The Gospel of John* bible study will continue throughout the school year. Stop by the Kuehner Room at 10:15 am Thursday, January 22, for coffee, refreshments, and a video. For this "Connect Coffee" Open House, all women participating in the Thursday morning study are together. The video is a good way to learn more about truths the beloved apostle, John, reveals in his Gospel and to see whether this group might be for you. New members are always welcome.

Are daytime meetings inconvenient? A new, six-session Bible study for women will begin at 7 pm Friday, January 30, in the Kuehner Room. *Rooted and Radiant* was written for any woman who wants to live her life grounded in Jesus. In this Bible study, we learn the Book of Colossians, verse by verse. We will seek to understand the challenges that faced the Colossians, recognizing that they are similar to our challenges today.

To order your book and learn more please go to www.walkingwithpurpose.com.



2025-26 RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

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 today, Sunday, January 11, for our Unit 3 Overview. Families registered for the Homeschool option will receive an email with link to join.

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, 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.

RE CLASS SCHEDULE REMINDERS

Sunday, Monday and Tuesday Religious Education classes meet this week, January 11, 12 and 13. Religious Education classes will not meet next week, Sunday, Monday, and Tuesday, January 18, 19 and 20, in honor of the Martin Luther King Day holiday.

CONFIRMATION CANDIDATE SESSION: TUESDAY, JANUARY 20

Confirmation candidates will meet on Tuesday, January 20, for Confirmation session from 6:45-8:30 pm in the Parish Center.

FIRST RECONCILIATION

Children of St. Francis of Assisi Parish will be receiving the Sacrament of Reconciliation for the first time on Saturday, January 24 at 10:00 am. Please pray for these children as they prepare for and receive the gift of God's forgiveness in this beautiful Sacrament.

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@stjurerockville.org](mailto:Jeanne.Donatelli@stjuderockville.org).

WOMEN'S TRAUMA RECOVERY SUPPORT GROUP STARTS MEETING THIS WEEK

The next archdiocesan Trauma Recovery Support Group for women survivors of all forms of trauma and abuse will begin the week of January 14–March 26, 2026. Registration is open and the group is limited to 10 participants. For more information, go to <https://adw.org/the-way-retreat-resources/> or if you have other questions, please contact Deborah A. McDonald, coordinator of The Way programs for Trauma Survivors, at mcdonaldd@adw.org.

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 lbaklarz@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.



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!**



SCAN ME

POOR BOX DONATIONS The donations for next weekend will go to the **UMAN (Upper Montgomery Assistance Network)**. 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 Barbara Beall 301-253-8740 or email oldefish@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 sfadwmusic@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.

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 tgmorew1@gmail.com.

Anuncios del boletín para el 11 de enero 2026:

Done su ropa de invierno usada en buen estado a la Colecta de Abrigos de Caridades Católicas



¿Recibió un abrigo nuevo para Navidad? Si es así, por favor, done sus abrigos usados en buen estado a la Colecta de Abrigos de Caridades Católicas del 12 al 22 de enero.

Invitamos a los feligreses a dejar cualquier abrigo de invierno en buen estado en el contenedor marcado en el Espacio de Reunión. Caridades Católicas recogerá las donaciones y las pondrá a disposición de quienes necesiten ropa de abrigo este invierno.

Si puede ayudar a clasificar los abrigos, por favor, acérquese al Espacio de Reunión a las 9:30 a. m. del jueves, 22 de enero para ayudar con esta tarea antes de que los recojan. Para más información, contacte con Tony Bosnick, Director de Asuntos Sociales y Formación en la Fe para Adultos, en abosnick@sfadw.org.

Mujeres, únanse al Estudio Bíblico del Evangelio de Juan el 22 de enero

Dos estudios bíblicos para mujeres de "Caminando con Propósito" aquí en San Francisco concluyeron este otoño. Sin embargo, el estudio bíblico "Tocando lo Divino: El Evangelio de Juan" en inglés continuará durante todo el año escolar. Visiten la Sala Kuehner a las 10:15 a. m. el jueves, 22 de enero para tomar un café, refrigerios y ver un video. Para esta jornada de puertas abiertas "Café Conecta", todas las mujeres que participan en el estudio del jueves por la mañana estarán juntas. El video es una excelente manera de aprender más sobre las verdades que el amado apóstol Juan revela en su Evangelio y para ver si este grupo podría ser para ustedes. Las nuevas integrantes siempre son bienvenidas.

¿Les resultan incómodas las reuniones diurnas? Este invierno, por las tardes, comenzará un nuevo estudio bíblico de seis sesiones de "Caminando con Propósito". Consulten los próximos boletines para obtener más detalles.

Grupo de Apoyo para la Recuperación de Trauma para Mujeres Comienza a Reunirse Esta Semana

El próximo Grupo Arquidiocesano de Apoyo para la Recuperación del Trauma para mujeres sobrevivientes de todo tipo de trauma y abuso comenzará la semana del 14 de enero al 26 de marzo de 2026. Se impartirá en inglés. La inscripción está abierta y el grupo está limitado a 10 participantes.

Para más información, visite <https://adw.org/the-way-retreat-resources/> o, si tiene alguna otra pregunta, comuníquese con Deborah A. McDonald, coordinadora de los programas de *The Way* (El Camino) para Sobrevivientes de Trauma, en mcdonaldd@adw.org.

Agradecimiento de la Alianza Interreligiosa de Nuevos Vecinos

Los miembros de la Alianza Interreligiosa de Nuevos Vecinos (NNIA) desean expresar su profundo agradecimiento a los feligreses de San Francisco que contribuyeron a nuestra recaudación de fondos a través del proyecto Árbol Espiritual y las tarjetas navideñas alternativas. Estuvimos simplemente maravillados por su generosidad. Sepan que sus donaciones apoyan las necesidades diarias de más de 120 familias. Las tarjetas de regalo se utilizan para comprar alimentos, ropa y artículos domésticos esenciales. El dinero donado para comprar tarjetas navideñas alternativas se utilizará para cubrir necesidades de emergencia

(médicas, dentales, transporte, etc.) de nuestras familias. También queremos agradecer a la Secretaria Parroquial, Donna Zazzo, y a la Coordinadora del Co-Ministerio de Regalos Navideños Alternativos, Doris Chung, por su apoyo para el éxito de estos proyectos.

En estos tiempos difíciles, nos reconforta saber que podemos contar con la comunidad de San Francisco para ayudar a nuestras familias vulnerables a sentirse apoyadas en su camino hacia la independencia. Que nuestro Dios amoso continúe bendiciéndolos a cada uno de ustedes en el próximo año.



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.