

ST FRANCIS OF ASSISI, DERWOOD

Mass Intentions

January 19 - January 25, 2026

Monday, 1/19	9:00 a.m.	Dennis Reising
Tuesday, 1/20	9:00 a.m.	Fred Shephard
Wednesday, 1/21	9:00 a.m.	Howard Boyd
	7:30 p.m.	Pat McGee
Thursday, 1/22	9:00 a.m.	Vincent Emanuele
Friday, 1/23	9:00 a.m.	George Beall
Saturday, 1/24	5:00 p.m.	Cynthia Vollmer Clarke
Sunday, 1/25	8:00 a.m.	Jose Lee & Co Chui
	9:30 a.m.	Father William Brailsford
	11:15 a.m.	Sally Smith
	1:00 p.m.	Raul Lorente
	5:00 p.m.	<i>Pro populo</i>

+ In Memoriam Aeternam +

In your charity, please pray for the repose of the souls of William Serchak, father of Bridget Ann Serchak, Alan Butler, father of Tracey Butler, Justine Aronne, grandmother of Reverend Bob Kilmer, Maria Alice Maia.

Please pray for the sick... Evelynne Carpentier, Delwin Alexander, Romana Gomes, 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 18, 2026

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
Monday:	1 Sm 15:16-23/Ps 50:8-9, 16bc-17, 21 and 23/ Mk 2:18-22
Tuesday:	1 Sm 16:1-13/Ps 89:20, 21-22, 27-28/ Mk 2:23-28
Wednesday:	1 Sm 17:32-33, 37, 40-51/Ps 144:1b, 2, 9-10/ Mk 3:1-6
Thursday:	1 Sm 18:6-9; 19:1-7/Ps 56:2-3, 9-10a, 10b-11, 12-13/Mk 3:7-12
Friday:	1 Sm 24:3-21/Ps 57:2, 3-4, 6 and 11/ Mk 3:13-19
Saturday:	2 Sm 1:1-4, 11-12, 19, 23-27/Ps 80:2-3, 5-7/ Mk 3:20-21
Next Sunday:	Is 8:23-9:3/Ps 27:1, 4, 13-14/1Cor 1:10-13, 17/ Mt 4:12-23 or 4:12-17

THE MUSINGS OF THE PASTOR

I want to continue listing 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. Today I want to make some suggestions about what to do if Mass has already begun or if you need to leave early.

ARRIVING AND LEAVING

At theatre productions and concerts latecomers are asked to remain in the lobby, waiting until an intermission to be seated. Some parishes follow this model and do not open the doors to latecomers until there is a break in the liturgical action of the Mass. Others ask latecomers to remain in the vestibule or in the back of the church if they arrive during the readings, psalm, or homily. What's the point? To help those who are assembled to pray together without interruption or distraction...Every parish, of course, wants all who gather to participate from the moment they arrive to the closing sound of our common prayer and song. Good planning helps us to be on time most of the time. Here are some habits to develop for arriving and leaving:

- Greet others as you arrive.
- Pick up any worship aids or hymnals you will need to participate fully.
- Make space for others to sit in any empty pews or chairs near you, even if you prefer to remain near an aisle.
- Turn off any pagers, watch alarms, or cell phones (unless you must carry such for medical emergencies or other serious reasons).

If Mass Has Already Begun...

- Use the church entrance that will be least disturbing to others who have already gathered.
- Search out seats before walking down the aisle or ask an usher or hospitality minister for assistance in finding a seat.
- Choose an appropriate time to join the assembly, such as during a song, but not during the readings or prayers. It is best to wait for the right moment to enter.
- Know that it is better to be present even if late than it is to be absent from the assembly altogether.
- Be hospitable to those already gathered (smile and use body language if you have to ask someone in a pew to move down, for example) as you silently join the assembly.

If You Need to Leave Early...

- Move at a time when the assembly is also in motion. Walk toward an exit during the Communion procession, for example.
- On leaving, remain in place until the Mass is over and the procession has left the church. The time after Communion and the concluding rites (with announcements) are both important to the communal aspect of the liturgy as a whole.
- Replace worship materials and hymnals at the end of the service.
- Clean up your personal belongings before you leave and leave the worship space tidy for the next congregation.

Until next week,

Fr. John

January 18, 2026

QUESTION OF THE WEEK

How will I witness to my faith, to Jesus, this week?



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.

CATHOLIC CHARITIES COAT DRIVE TO CONCLUDE ON THURSDAY, JANUARY 22

If you haven't yet brought in your gently used coats, hats, scarves, gloves and mittens for the Catholic Charities Coat Drive, then you have three more days to do so. On Thursday, January 22, representatives from Catholic Charities will be picking up the winter outerwear donations soon after the daily Mass at 9 am. Please bring in your donations and drop them off in the marked receptacle in the Gathering Space by Thursday morning. For more information, please contact Social Concerns Director Tony Bosnick at abosnick@sfadw.org.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS EXTENDS OPEN INVITATION TO ATTEND THE 2026 NATIONAL MARCH FOR LIFE

The Knights of Columbus Council 2323 invites parishioners to join us at the 2026 National March for Life on Friday, January 23. We are gathering at the St. Mary's Church parking lot between 9-10 am, after which we will walk to the Metro station and ride downtown to the Washington Mall. Please park along the white fence near the Church St. exit, and visit marchforlife.org for more information, including the parade route.

OLD PALMS



We will be collecting old palms through **Sunday, February 15**. Please place your palms in the Palm Collection Box in the Gathering Space.

CONSIDER JOINING A BIBLE STUDY FOR WOMEN IN 2026

A new, six-session Bible study for women will begin at 7 pm Friday, February 13, in the church's Kuehner Room. *Rooted and Radiant* was written for any woman who wants to live her life grounded in Jesus Christ. In this Bible study in English, 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 own challenges today. To order your book and learn more, go to www.walkingwithpurpose.com.

Touching the Divine: The Gospel of John, which began in the fall, will continue throughout the school year. Stop by the Kuehner Room at 10:15 am Thursday, January 22, for coffee and refreshments and to watch 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. It's also a good way to gauge whether you would like to join either of the women's Bible study groups. New members are always welcome.

To register, contact the Parish Office by e-mailing dzez-zo@sfadw.org or calling Donna at (301) 840-1407.

BIBLE STUDY FOR HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS

Sisters of Strength is a high school program in English to bridge the gap between the truths God reveals to us through Scripture and a teen girl's ability to receive those truths in a way that feels relevant. As the girls are introduced to the Bible, they'll grow in their ability to make good friends, recognize who they are in Christ, and discover God's purpose for their lives. The next semester begins at 4 pm Sunday, February 1, in the Kuehner Room. For more information or to register, contact the St. Francis Religious Education Office at sfareligioused@sfadw.org or by calling (301) 258-9193.

THE SPIRITUAL ADOPTION PROGRAM LAUNCHES THIS WEEKEND

The St Francis Respect Life Ministry is launching a Spiritual Adoption program this weekend. Please refer to the bulletin insert for more details.

Day # 1: Your Spiritually Adopted Baby is conceived.

At the moment of conception, my new human life begins, complete with my own DNA. My sex is determined and, although I am no bigger than a grain of sugar, I have a soul.

For more information, contact Respect Life Ministry Coordinator Rose Attig at ancientoaks25@hotmail.com.

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 about Altar Guild duties, please call Donna in the Parish Office, 301-840-1407.



2025-26 RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

RE CLASS SCHEDULE REMINDERS

Religious Education classes will not meet this week, Sunday, Monday, and Tuesday, January 18, 19 & 20, in honor of the Martin Luther King 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.

SAVE THE DATE FOR VACATION BIBLE CAMP 2026: JUNE 29-JULY 3

St. Francis of Assisi Church invites children from age 4 to those who will complete the 5th Grade in June 2026 to share in our summer Vacation Bible Camp. VBC volunteer opportunities are also available for middle school and high school age teens, and adults as well. Program details, including camper registration and volunteer application for teens, will be announced in April. Watch our parish website for camper registration and information about volunteer opportunities for adults and teens: <https://sfadw.org/vbc>.

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.
- Through Flocknote messages to families

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.

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



JANUARY AND FEBRUARY SERIES

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

February 4 – Service Night

Come make Valentines for the residents of
the local nursing home. Snacks provided.
Meet in Parish Center from 7pm – 8:30pm.

February 18 – Youth Night

Start off the Lenten season with us!
Pizza, scripture, games and fellowship
after the 5:30pm Ash Wednesday mass.
Meet in Parish Center until 8pm.

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

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (*continued*)

WAYS TO SERVE

The entire parish community shares responsibility for faith formation and the support of many volunteers makes our programs successful. There are a variety of ways to serve, including weekly, monthly, and "as needed" commitments:

- Catechist for weekly classes
- Classroom Aide
- Substitute Catechist
- Support for Service Projects
- Support for Art Projects (at home preparation)
- Help with Sacramental Celebrations & Special Events

Please consider supporting our Religious Education program as a volunteer! To learn more, please call the Religious Education Office at 301-258-9193.

MOTHER OF GOD SCHOOL OPEN HOUSE

20501 Goshen Road, Gaithersburg
Sunday, January 25 11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Pre-K 3s & 4s

Kindergarten - 8th Grade

RSVP not required.

Please stop by during Open House Hours.
301-990-2088 ext. 12

Admissions at mogschool.com

ST. MARTIN'S FOOD PANTRY SHORTAGES

TOP PRIORITY: Canned Soup (400 cans needed)
‘Meals in a can’ or canned pasta with meat, e.g. lasagna,
ravioli, spaghetti/meatballs (200 cans needed)
Dry pasta—prefer 1 pound boxes straight pasta
(need 150 boxes)

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

*Your donations supported 390 families this past week. God
Bless You! Thank you for your support.*

ROCKVILLE SUMMER CAMP

Looking for an amazing and faith filled summer camp? Look
no further than the Rockville Catholic Summer Program, the
area's best and most affordable Catholic camp! Located at St.
Patrick's parish in Rockville, RCSP hosts 1,500+ campers
ages 4-14 for 7 weeks of sports, STEM, arts & crafts and
more. Registration opens in February, please visit
www.rockvillecatholicsummer.com for more information.

MEN'S DISCERNMENT RETREAT FEBRUARY 13-15, 2026

The Office of Priest Vocations invites men (ages 18 to 40s)
who are interested in learning more about seminary and the
priesthood, to attend the 2026 Men's Discernment Retreat.
The Retreat will take place at Saint John Paul II Seminary.
This is an opportunity to pray and reflect on God's call,
meet priests and seminarians, and hear their stories. Please
register by February 6, 2026 at [https://dcpriest.org/
event/2026-mens-discernment-retreat/](https://dcpriest.org/event/2026-mens-discernment-retreat/). For additional infor-
mation contact Fr. Mark Ivany, 202-636-9020 or email
vocations@adw.org.



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 recruit-
ing 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 click-
ing 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

VITA CLINICS TO OPEN ON FEBRUARY 7

On February 7, Catholic Charities launches its Free Tax
Preparation Clinic (VITA) at our DC offices, 924 G
Street, NW. Our IRS certified tax preparers/reviewers
are excited once again to help you and your clients ob-
tain the largest possible tax refunds.

We look forward to helping you take advantage of sever-
al new and other important tax credits and deductions:

1. The new deductions for tips and overtime pay
2. The new “Senior” tax deduction
3. Expanded child tax credits, and
4. Important earned income credits - both federal and
state. DC has recently expanded its program in this area.

Schedule Tax Appointment

To schedule a tax appointment, please use this link:

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSctmL8-
SICX6Ais4gGAfGtauKYJZaLJKEqsYhuk-
k1XKexBOGQ/viewform?](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSctmL8-SICX6Ais4gGAfGtauKYJZaLJKEqsYhuk-k1XKexBOGQ/viewform?)

IN HIS GOODNESS, GOD HEALS!

You are invited to a Healing Mass at St. Rose of Lima-
11701 Clopper Rd, Gaithersburg, MD 20878. Friday, Jan-
uary 30th 6:30 pm - 9:00pm. If you or someone you know
needs healing - spiritual, physical, emotional, or relational -
don't miss this special event!

Celebrant: Fr. Agustin Mateo Ayala

SCHEDULE:

- | | |
|------|--|
| 6:30 | Praise and Worship |
| 7:00 | Mass celebrated by Fr. Mateo |
| 7:45 | Healing prayer with Eucharistic Adora-
tion |
| 8:00 | Individual Prayer Ministry with
Fr. Mateo, the St. Rose Deacons and
Healing Prayer Ministers |
| 9:00 | Closing with Benediction |

All are invited!

DAY OF RECOLLECTION FOR VOCATIONS

You are invited to attend the Mother Teresa Vocation So-
ciety Annual Day of Recollection on Saturday, January
31st, from 8:30 am to 1:30 pm at the Church of the An-
nunciation (3810 Massachusetts Avenue, NW, Washing-
ton, DC). The day includes the celebration of Mass, Ado-
ration, Confession, and lunch. The Annual Day of Recol-
lection is free and open to all (you do not have to be a
member of the MTVS to attend). Donations appreciated.
Kindly register by January 24 at: [https://
forms.dcpriest.org/2026-mtvs-day-of-recollection](https://forms.dcpriest.org/2026-mtvs-day-of-recollection).

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 qui-
etly in front of a priest and receiving the Church's bless-
ing. In that way, one would become eligible to receive
the Sacraments of the Church, especially the Eucharist.

POOR BOX DONATIONS The donations for next
weekend will go to **Catholic Charities' Prison Ministry**.
Thank you for your generosity!

Anuncios del boletín para el 18 de enero 2026:

Considera unirte a un estudio bíblico para mujeres en 2026

Un nuevo estudio bíblico de seis sesiones para mujeres comenzará a las 7.00 pm del viernes 13 de febrero en la Sala Kuehner de la iglesia. *Rooted and Radiant* fue escrito para cualquier mujer que quiera vivir su vida con los pies en la tierra en Jesucristo. En este estudio bíblico en inglés, aprendemos el Libro de Colosenses, versículo por versículo. Buscaremos comprender los desafíos que enfrentaron los colosenses, reconociendo que son similares a los nuestros propios desafíos actuales. Para pedir su libro y saber más, visite www.walkingwithpurpose.com.

Tocando lo Divino: El Evangelio de Juan, que comenzó en otoño, continuará a lo largo del curso escolar. Pase por el Kuehner Room a las 10:15 de la mañana del jueves 22 de enero para tomar café, tomar algo y ver un vídeo. Para esta jornada de puertas abiertas "Connect Coffee", todas las mujeres que participan en el estudio del jueves por la mañana están juntas. El video es una buena forma de aprender más sobre las verdades que el amado apóstol Juan revela en su Evangelio. También es una buena forma de saber si le gustaría unirse a alguno de los grupos de estudio bíblico para mujeres. Los nuevos miembros siempre son bienvenidos.

Para registrarse, contacte con la Oficina Parroquial enviando un correo electrónico a dzezzo@sfadw.org o llamando a Donna al (301) 840-1407.

Estudio bíblico para chicas de secundaria

Hermanas de la Fortaleza es un programa de secundaria en inglés que busca cerrar la brecha entre las verdades que Dios nos revela a través de las Escrituras y la capacidad de una adolescente para recibir esas verdades de una manera que resulte relevante. A medida que las chicas sean introducidas a la Biblia, crecerán en su capacidad para hacer buenas amigas, reconocer quiénes están en Cristo y descubrir el propósito de Dios para sus vidas. El siguiente semestre comienza a las 4.00 pm del domingo 1 de febrero, en la Sala Kuehner. Para más información o para registrarse, contactese con la Oficina de Educación Religiosa de San Francisco en sfareligioused@sfadw.org o llamando al (301) 258-9193.

El Programa de Adopción Espiritual comienza este fin de semana

El Ministerio de Vida St Francis Respect lanza este fin de semana un programa de Adopción Espiritual. Por favor, consulte el inserto del boletín para más detalles.

Día #1: Su bebé adoptado espiritualmente es concebido.

En el momento de la concepción, comienza mi nueva vida humana, completa con mi propio ADN. Mi sexo está decidido y, aunque no soy más grande que un grano de azúcar, tengo alma.

Para más información, contacte con la coordinadora del Ministerio Respect Life, Rose Attig, en ancientoa-ks25@hotmail.com.

Knights of Columbus extiende una invitación abierta para asistir a la Marcha Nacional por la Vida 2026

El Consejo 2323 de los Caballeros de Colón invita a los feligreses a unirse en la Marcha Nacional por la Vida 2026 el viernes 23 de enero. Nos reunimos en el aparcamiento de la iglesia de Santa María entre las 9 y las 10 de la mañana, tras lo cual caminaremos hasta la estación de metro e iremos en bicicleta al centro hasta el Washington Mall. Por favor, lee más en marchforlife.org, incluyendo información sobre la ruta del desfile.

La campaña de recogida de abrigo de Catholic Charities concluirá el jueves 22 de enero

Si aún no ha traído sus abrigos, sombreros, bufandas y guantes usados en buen estado para la campaña de recogida de abrigos de Caridades Católicas, entonces tiene tres días más para hacerlo. El jueves 22 de enero, los representantes de Caridades Católicas recogerán las donaciones de ropa exterior de invierno poco después de la misa diaria a las 9 de la mañana. Por favor, traigan sus donaciones y déjenlas en el recipiente marcado del Espacio de Reunión antes del jueves por la mañana. Para más información, por favor contacte con el Director de Asuntos Sociales, Tony Bosnick, en abosnick@sfadw.org.

Las clínicas VITA abrirán el 7 de febrero

El 7 de febrero, Caridades Católicas inaugura su Clínica Gratuita de Preparación de Impuestos (VITA) en nuestras oficinas de DC, 924 G Street, NW. Nuestros preparadores/revisores certificados por la IRS están una vez más encantados de ayudarle a usted y a sus clientes a obtener las mayores devoluciones posibles.

Esperamos ayudarle a aprovechar varios créditos y deducciones fiscales nuevos y otros importantes:

1. Las nuevas deducciones por propinas y pago de horas extra
2. La nueva deducción fiscal "Senior"
3. Ampliación de los créditos fiscales por hijos, y
4. Créditos importantes por ingresos del trabajo, tanto federales como estatales. DC ha ampliado recientemente su programa en esta área.

Para concertar una cita fiscal, utilice este enlace: <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSctmL8-SICX6Ais4gGAfGtauKYJZaLJKEqsYhukk1XKexBOGQ/viewform?> Si tiene alguna pregunta, no dude en ponerse en contacto con nosotros en FSN@cc-dc.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.