

## ST FRANCIS OF ASSISI, DERWOOD

### Mass Intentions

**January 26 - February 1, 2026**

<b>Monday, 1/26</b>	9:00 a.m.	Wilfredo de Castro
<b>Tuesday, 1/27</b>	9:00 a.m.	Anne Muller
<b>Wednesday, 1/28</b>	9:00 a.m.	John Estampador
	7:30 p.m.	Dr. Hector Asuncion
<b>Thursday, 1/29</b>	9:00 a.m.	Lexi Silva (L)
<b>Friday, 1/30</b>	9:00 a.m.	Edward Guild
<b>Saturday, 1/31</b>	5:00 p.m.	George Beall
<b>Sunday, 2/1</b>	8:00 a.m.	Marlene Russo
	9:30 a.m.	Thomas, Julie & Bill Flanery
	11:15 a.m.	Tom Lee
	1:00 p.m.	<i>Pro populo</i>
	5:00 p.m.	Paul McKenna

**+ In Memoriam Aeternam +**

In your charity, please pray for the repose of the soul of Frank Johnson, husband of Begai Johnson.

**Please pray for the sick....** Evelynne Carpentier, Joseph Drerup, Mary Webb, Delwin Alexander, Romana Gomes, Peter Perera, Mary Cutting, 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 25, 2026

<b>Sunday:</b>	Is 8:23-9:3/Ps 27:1, 4, 13-14/1 Cor 1:10-13, 17/ Mt 4:12-23 or 4:12-17
<b>Monday:</b>	2 Tm 1:1-8 or Ti 1:1-5/Ps 96:1-2a, 2b-3, 7-8a, 10, 21-22, 25-26/Mk 3:22-30
<b>Tuesday:</b>	2 Sm 6:12b-15, 17-19/Ps 24:7, 8, 9, 10/ Mk 3:31-35
<b>Wednesday:</b>	2 Sm 7:4-17/Ps 89:4-5, 27-28, 29-30/Mk 4:1-20
<b>Thursday:</b>	2 Sm 7:18-19, 24-29/Ps 132:1-2, 3-5, 11, 12, 13-14/Mk 4:21-25
<b>Friday:</b>	2 Sm 11:1-4a, 5-10a, 13-17/Ps 51:3-4, 5-6a, 6bcd-7, 10-11/Mk 4:26-34
<b>Saturday</b>	: 2 Sm 12:1-7a, 10-17/Ps 51:12-13, 14-15, 16- 17/Mk 4:35-41
<b>Next Sunday:</b>	Zep 2:3; 3:12-13/Ps 146:6c-7, 8-9a, 9b-10/1 Cor 1:26-31/Mt 5:1-12a

### *THE MUSINGS OF THE PASTOR*

We celebrate Catholic Schools Week from the last Sunday of January through the following Saturday. In other words, today marks the start of Catholic Schools Week 2026. As I think back to my time as a student at St. Paul School in Butler, Pennsylvania, I remember that my teachers, Sisters of Mercy, were originally from the Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown. They came from cities and towns like Altoona, Bedford, Ebensburg, Johnstown, New Germany, Portage, and Spangler. A few were even from Butler! The students at St. Paul School in my time often heard stories about the Johnstown Flood and Prince Demetrius Gallitzin (1770-1840). I want to devote this column to Prince Gallitzin, who spent many years as the sole priest in Western Pennsylvania.

Demetrius Gallitzin came from a very aristocratic background. His father, a Russian prince served as ambassador to Holland. His mother was a German countess who also happened to be a devout Catholic who imparted her Catholic faith to her son. While making a tour of America in the early 1790's, Demetrius was struck by the needs of the struggling Catholic Church. Deciding to become a Catholic priest, he was accepted as a seminarian by Bishop John Carroll and enrolled in the new seminary in Baltimore in November 1792. His father was shocked and horrified by this news. Demetrius was ordained in 1795 by Bishop Carroll. He was the first to make all his theological studies in the United States. After ordination he was sent to work on a church mission at Port Tobacco, Maryland. He was then transferred to the Conewago district where he served at the Conewago Chapel, located in Hanover, Pennsylvania, until 1799.

In 1799 he used his own fortune to purchase land for a new Catholic settlement in Loretto, Pennsylvania. For many years he was the only Catholic priest west of the Alleghenies, covering territory that is now part of the Dioceses of Pittsburgh, Erie, Greensburg, Altoona-Johnstown, and Harrisburg. Carving up this settlement out of the wilderness was arduous. In addition to buying tracts of land for settlers, he set up sawmills, tanneries, and other industries to support them. Although he had expected to inherit his parents' fortune, he found himself disinherited by a decree from the Russian government on account of his ordination as a Catholic priest.

Having spent himself both physically and financially for the sake of his flock he died on May 6, 1840. On June 6, 2005, he was named a Servant of God. Let me end this column with this quote: *"The ministers of Christ, in 1815, scattered over the globe, preach likewise one and the same doctrine, because Christ is still with them"*

—Servant of God Demetrius Gallitzin.

Until next week,

**Fr. John**

**QUESTION OF THE WEEK**

*The first disciples left their old lives behind to follow Jesus. What is Jesus calling me to leave behind?*



**BE THE LIGHT**

[appeal.adw.org](http://appeal.adw.org) #adwappeal

**PLEASE PRAY OVER YOUR COMMITMENT  
TO THE 2026 ANNUAL  
CATHOLIC SERVICES APPEAL**

At Masses on January 31 and February 1, parishioners will hear an announcement about the Archdiocese of Washington's 2026 Annual Catholic Services Appeal, themed "Be the Light." This annual fundraising initiative has a \$12 million fundraising goal to fund vital ministries, seminaries and outreach for the local church in Washington DC and five surrounding Maryland counties. Please start praying over how you might support the Annual Catholic Services Appeal, 100 percent of whose proceeds are used to financially support vocations, seminarian education, and broader charitable work. **Thank you!**



**Volunteer  
Appreciation**

**ADULT LAY MINISTERS  
INVITED TO THE  
VOLUNTEER  
APPRECIATION DINNER  
AND DANCE ON  
FEBRUARY 7**

Calling all active parish volunteers! If you are an adult who volunteered in parish ministry over the past year, then please come to the Volunteer Appreciation Dinner and Dance from 6:30-10 pm Saturday, February 7, in the Parish Center. Simply

Fresh will cater the event, which will have a Roaring '20s theme. Please RSVP for the dinner and dance by Sunday, February 1, at the table in the Gathering Space or in one of Fr. John's Flocknotes. **Hope to see you there!**



**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.

**INSTALLATION OF CHURCH'S  
NEW HEATING, VENTILATION,  
AND AIR CONDITIONING SYSTEM  
WILL COMMENCE JANUARY 26**

The installation of our church's new heating, ventilation, and air conditioning system will start Monday, January 26, impacting church operations for potentially four or five days. While heat will continue running in the church on Monday, it will be turned off Tuesday during the day. As additional units are installed on Tuesday and Wednesday, some heat will run but the church won't be fully heated until Thursday or Friday of this week.

A large tractor trailer holding the four units and a large crane will be on the parish grounds, possibly, blocking access to the entrance of the church. There will also be heavy equipment on the church grounds behind the Parish Center.

Impacts on daily Mass and ministries' use of the Kuehner Room, church and Parish Center were still being determined at the time of the bulletin's press run. Parishioners will be informed of further church impacts by Flocknote or text, as more is known.

This major improvement to our church is the result of parishioners' generous contributions to the 2025 Upgrading our Parish Home for Our Children's Children Capital Campaign. Thank you to all those parishioners who contributed to make this improvement a reality!



**EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION**

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

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

*All are welcome to attend.*



**CONSIDER HOW UNBORN BABIES  
ARE FORMING BY TAKING PART IN  
THE SPIRITUAL ADOPTION  
PROGRAM**

Have you wondered how a baby is forming as he or she develops in the mother's womb? Our Respect Life Ministry challenges us to reflect on this, with its Spiritual Adoption Program launched last month. Parishioners are invited to pray for one of the more than 5,000 babies who are aborted each day – even though we'll never know who they are, God does. This call to pray for an unborn child will continue through Respect Life Month in October of this year, during which a baby shower will be held, with all gifts donated benefitting the three pregnancy centers in Montgomery County – Shady Grove Pregnancy Center, Rockville Women's Center, and Centro Tepeyac.

For more information, please see the posters in the Gathering Space or contact Respect Life Ministry Coordinator Rose Attig at [ancientoaks2@icloud.com](mailto:ancientoaks2@icloud.com).



## 2025-26 RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

### CATECHESIS FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

Our parish offers catechetical sessions specifically designed for children and youth with special needs and their families. Our class meets next Sunday, February 1, 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.

### 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 5<sup>th</sup> 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](http://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.....*

### 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](http://www.rockvillecatholicsummer.com) for more information.



### JANUARY AND FEBRUARY SERIES

#### 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](mailto:sfayouth@sfadw.org) to register.

### 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](mailto:sfareligioused@sfadw.org) or by calling (301) 258-9193.

### 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.

## ST. MARTIN'S FOOD PANTRY SHORTAGES

### TOP PRIORITY: Canned Soup (1,000 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

Pasta Sauce

Macaroni & Cheese

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

**Your donations supported 326 families this past week. God Bless You!** Thank you to the parishes who have supported us, including St. Francis, St. Bart's, Our Lady of Mercy, and Our Lady of Grace, Rose of Lima, and St. Martin's. You are the essential contributors to all we do. **Thank you for your support.**

## 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/>. For additional information contact Fr. Mark Ivany, 202-636-9020 or email [vocations@adw.org](mailto:vocations@adw.org).

## DAY OF RECOLLECTION FOR VOCATIONS

You are invited to attend the Mother Teresa Vocation Society Annual Day of Recollection on Saturday, January 31st, from 8:30 am to 1:30 pm at the Church of the Annunciation (3810 Massachusetts Avenue, NW, Washington, DC). The day includes the celebration of Mass, Adoration, Confession, and lunch. The Annual Day of Recollection 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-mtv-s-day-of-recollection>.



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](mailto:johnd2323@comcast.net) or 240-354-6648. **Vivat Jesus!**



SCAN ME

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



## 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.

## 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 January we will meet January 27. 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.

## IN HIS GOODNESS, GOD HEALS!

*All are invited!*

You are invited to a Healing Mass at St. Rose of Lima- 11701 Clopper Rd, Gaithersburg, MD 20878. Friday, January 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/Eucharistic Adoration
- 8:00 Individual Prayer Ministry with Fr. Mateo, the St. Rose Deacons and Healing Prayer Ministers
- 9:00 Closing with Benediction

## BEREAVEMENT SESSIONS (VIRTUAL)

Starting February 17, Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church is offering 8 bereavement sessions. The focus of the sessions is to honor the life of your lost loved one. Although it can be difficult, attendees tell the story of their loss, review photos that reveal the special relationship that existed with their loved one and explore how their loved one influenced their life. This program is for adults who have experienced the death of a parent, spouse, child, sibling or significant other. The next series will begin Tuesday February 17, 2026, and continue for eight consecutive Tuesdays through April 7, 2026 from 7:00-8:30 PM. The meetings are VIRTUAL. For more information or to sign up contact Jim Hoffman at [hoffmanlpc@gmail.com](mailto:hoffmanlpc@gmail.com) or call his cell: (202) 577 - 2213.



## Anuncios del boletín para el 25 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](http://www.walkingwithpurpose.com).

Para registrarse, contacte con la Oficina Parroquial enviando un correo electrónico a [dzezzo@sfadw.org](mailto: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](mailto:sfareligioused@sfadw.org) o llamando al (301) 258-9193.

### **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 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?>

### **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](mailto:sfadwmusic@gmail.com) o con el coordinador del Ministerio de Haití, Dan Cardile, en [dan-cardile@yahoo.com](mailto:dan-cardile@yahoo.com).



### **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.



Campaña Anual de  
Servicios Católicos



Arquidiócesis  
Católica Romana de Washington

# SÉ LA LUZ

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Fin de semana de anuncio: 31 de enero y 1 de febrero

“Yo soy la luz del mundo. El que me sigue no andará en tinieblas, sino que tendrá la luz de la Vida.”

Juan 8:12