

ST FRANCIS OF ASSISI, DERWOOD

Mass Intentions

January 26 - February 1, 2026

Monday, 2/2	9:00 a.m.	Alex O'Connor
Tuesday, 2/3	9:00 a.m.	Xavier Joseph
Wednesday, 2/4	9:00 a.m.	Gaby & Rod O'Connor
	7:30 p.m.	Hermenegilda Gomes Sila Semedo (L)
Thursday, 2/5	9:00 a.m.	Marlene Russo
Friday, 2/6	9:00 a.m.	Barbara Lynn Beall
	7:30 p.m.	Frank Longo
Saturday, 2/7	5:00 p.m.	Ruby Duran
Sunday, 2/8	8:00 a.m.	Virginia Lubragge
	9:30 a.m.	Harriet Kayaga
	11:15 a.m.	Dr. Hector Asuncion
	1:00 p.m.	In Thanksgiving Moreno- Kolberg Family (L)
	5:00 p.m.	<i>Pro populo</i>

+ In Memoriam Aeternam +

In your charity, please pray for the repose of the souls of Reverend Milton Edward Jordan, Archdiocese of Washington, Peter Perera, father of Manuri Perera, Marie Silich, mother of Christine Rogewitz.

Please pray for the sick....Trevor Lord, Evelynne Carpentier, Joseph Drerup, Mary Webb, Delwin Alexander, Romana Gomes, 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 February 1, 2026

Sunday:	Zep 2:3; 3:12-13/Ps 146:6c-7, 8-9a, 9b-10/ 1 Cor 1:26-31/Mt 5:1-12a
Monday:	Mal 3:1-4/Ps 24:7, 8, 9, 10/Heb 2:14-18/ Lk 2:22-40 or 2:22-32
Tuesday:	2 Sm 18:9-10, 14b, 24-25a, 30-19:3/Ps 86:1-2, 3-4, 5-6/Mk 5:21-43
Wednesday:	2 Sm 24:2, 9-17/Ps 32:1-2, 5, 6, 7/Mk 6:1-6
Thursday:	1 Kgs 2:1-4, 10-12/1 Chr 29:10, 11ab, 11d-12a, 12bcd/Mk 6:7-13
Friday:	Sir 47:2-11/Ps 18:31, 47 and 50, 51/Mk 6:14-29
Saturday:	1 Kgs 3:4-13/Ps 119:9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14/ Mk 6:30-34
Next Sunday:	Is 58:7-10/Ps 112:4-5, 6-7, 8-9/1 Cor 2:1-5/ Mt 5:13-16

THE MUSINGS OF THE PASTOR

Emily Simpson wrote an article that was published in the January 31, 2016, issue of *Our Sunday Visitor*. Unfortunately, *Our Sunday Visitor* ceased publication in 2025. In her article, "Corporal Works of Mercy: Let the Saints Be Your Guide," Emily paired together a corporal work of mercy with a saint who exhibited this work of mercy in a particular way. When I read her article again recently, I was reminded that it was still very timely a decade later. Let me list the Corporal Works of Mercy and the saint whom she linked with that work of mercy.

Welcoming the Stranger: St. Benedict of Nursia

Giving Drink to the Thirsty: St. Peter Claver

Healing the Sick: St. Marianne Cope

Feeding the Hungry: St. Frances of Rome

Burying the Dead: St. Catherine of Siena

Visiting the Imprisoned: St. Peter Nolasco

Clothing the Naked: St. Martin of Tours

Her article is well worth reading to see how each saint lived out that work of mercy. Another feature of that article is listing some things that we can do to practice that work of mercy. I am going to list Emily Simpson's ideas below.

Welcoming the Stranger

- Invite a new family from your parish or neighborhood to dinner or a party.
- Encourage your children to sit with the new kids at school or invite them to join their friends at lunch or play.
- Donate to organizations that care for refugees

Giving Drink to the Thirsty

- Donate money to an organization that brings clean water to people in developing nations.
- Carry extra bottles of water in your car to give to the homeless.
- Avoid using chemicals on your lawn or other items that pollute groundwater and water supplies.

Healing the Sick

- Visit friends or family members who are in the hospital or nursing home.
- Run errands for the homebound
- Volunteer at the hospital

Feeding the Hungry

- Support an organization that feeds victims of famine, war, and systemic national poverty.
- Make a meal for a family with a new baby.
- Invite a young family or a person who lives alone to join you for dinner.

Burying the Dead

- Prepare meals or offer assistance to those grieving loved ones.
- Contribute to organizations that provide Christian burial to the poor.
- Visit widows and widowers.

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

February 1, 2026

QUESTION OF THE WEEK

How will I allow myself to be meek, merciful, and poor in spirit, choosing to rely more often on God's grace??

HVAC SYSTEM INSTALLATION FOR CHURCH, GATHERING SPACE & PARISH CENTER TO BEGIN FEBRUARY 9

Starting the week of February 9, crews are planning to install the new heating, ventilation and air conditioning units servicing the church, Gathering Space, and Parish Center. The installation of the new HVAC system will involve the location of a large crane and tractor trailer in front of the church and on the side of the building the week of February 9-13. Impacts on church liturgies are still being determined, but the celebration of daily Mass will almost certainly be affected, as will access to the church on certain days. Please watch Flocknote messages and texts for more information as the start date approaches. For more information, please contact the Parish Office at (301) 840-1407.



SHROVE TUESDAY PANCAKE SUPPER TO HAPPEN ON FEBRUARY 17

Save the date for the Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner on Tuesday, February 17, in the Parish Center! Please bring your entire family for all-you-can-eat pancakes, bacon, hash browns, fruit, and all the trimmings for a nominal cost. Please watch Fr. John's Flocknotes and the bulletin for a forthcoming flyer. For more information, please contact Special Events Coordinator Sylvia Jones at decaffqueen@gmail.com.

PRAYER & LIFE WORKSHOP IN SPANISH BEGINS ON FEBRUARY 14

The Spanish Ministry would like to invite all Spanish-speaking parishioners to sign up for the Prayer and Life Workshop, a beautiful opportunity to grow deeper in your personal prayer life and relationship with God. The workshop will begin on February 14. For more information, please see the flyers in the Gathering Space.

THE MUSINGS OF THE PASTOR (continued)

Visit the Imprisoned

- Support or volunteer with ministries to the incarcerated.
- Donate to organizations that provide Christmas gifts or other forms of support to prisoners' families. Pray for those in prison.

Clothing the Naked

- Collect used clothes from family and friends and distribute them to the homeless.
- Give your old maternity clothes or baby clothes to an expectant mother.
- Buy diapers for a young family with small children.

Until next week,
Fr. John



BE THE LIGHT

appeal.adw.org #adwappeal

Next weekend, parishioners will be asked prayerfully to make their commitment to the 2026 Annual Catholic Services Appeal. Please take a brochure after Mass this weekend, or visit appeal.adw.org, to learn more about how the Appeal benefits our parish and serves people in need throughout our communities in the area. It is our goal that every parish family will participate this year, no matter the amount. All gifts will be credited towards our parish goal. Thank you in advance for your generous response to **Be the Light: The 2026 Annual Catholic Services Appeal!**

LAST CHANCE TO RSVP FOR THE ADULT VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION DINNER DANCE

Sunday, February 1, is the final day to RSVP for the Volunteer Appreciation Dinner and Dance from 6:30-10 pm Saturday, February 7, in the Parish Center. With a theme of "Roaring '20s," please don your flapper dress, strands of pearls, and "The Great Gatsby"-inspired suits to dance the night away and have fellowship with your fellow ministry volunteers. This event is for our parish's adult volunteers who have served in a church ministry over the past year. Please RSVP at <https://sfaderwood.flocknote.com/signup/242389>. For more information, please contact the Parish Office at (301) 840-1407. **Thank you!**



JOIN SATURDAY MORNING BOOK CLUB ON FEBRUARY 7 IN READING, DISCUSSING BOOK ON FAITH, POLITICS AND CIVICS

Join the Saturday Morning Spiritual Reading Group, as they begin a new book whose underpinnings are based in faith, politics, and civics. Beginning at 8 am Saturday, February 7, in the Kuehner Room, the co-ed reading group will begin "American Gospel: God, the Founding Fathers, and the Making of a Nation" by Jon Meacham.

At a time when our country seems divided by extremism, "American Gospel" draws upon history to offer a new perspective on God and politics. The American Gospel – literally, the "good news" about America – is that religion shapes our public life without controlling it. In this *New York Times* bestselling book, Meacham retells the history of a nation grappling with faith and government, making it clear that the nation's best chance of summoning what President Abraham Lincoln called "the better angels of our nature" lies in recovering the spirit and sense of the Founding Fathers.

No need to sign up – just come. Coffee will be offered! For more information, contact Ministry Coordinator Trish Olin at mpolin@comcast.net or text her at (240) 355-5753.



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 today 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.

FIRST EUCHARIST PARENT MEETING WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 12

There will be a First Eucharist Parent Meeting on Wednesday, February 11, at 7:30 pm in the Parish Center for those who have registered their children for First Eucharist preparation this year. If you have questions, please call the Religious Education Office, 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 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.....



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.



JANUARY AND FEBRUARY SERIES

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.

February 27 – Top Golf

Meet us at Top Golf in Germantown for a fun evening of fellowship and golf. From 7pm – 9pm.

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

HAITI BENEFIT CONCERT TO FEATURE MUSIC ENSEMBLE PLAYING SONGS POPULAR DURING SHAKESPEARE'S TIME

Interested in getting transported back to 1626? If so, then join us at the Haiti Benefit Concert at 7:30 pm Saturday, February 21, at our church. The free concert will feature The Baltimore Consort, a six-member ensemble that plays a wide range of early music, Renaissance music and music from later periods. Established in 1980, the ensemble began specializing in music from the Elizabethan era, but broadened their repertoire to include Scottish and French popular music from the 16th and 17th centuries. They will perform a program, titled, "In Angel's Wede: Music for Mary, Queen of Scots." There is no admission fee, but all donations will benefit our sister parish in Haiti. For more information, please contact Music Director Janet Pate at sfadwmusic@gmail.com.

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

"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 336 families this past week. God Bless You! Thank you for your support.

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 February we will meet February 3, 10, 24.. 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.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS COUNCIL 2323 SPECIAL OLYMPICS POLAR PLUNGE

On January 31, Knights of Columbus members Rick Staab and Guy Federico, along with Guy's spouse Kristin Mitas, became "Knightcicles," by taking a dip into the 38-degree waters of the Chesapeake Bay. As part of the Polar Bear Plunge, the trio are raising funds for more than 19,000 Special Olympics Maryland athletes and Unified teammates to compete year-round, free of charge. Your donations provide meals, uniforms, transportation, and an amazing experience for our athletes. Please show your support for this important program by donating through the Council 2323 Special Olympics Maryland page: <https://support.somd.org/team/780088>. You can view the individual team members from there. Please visit the council website at www.kofc2323.org or their Facebook page at www.facebook.com/kofc2323. Thank you for helping our athletes have another great year!



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



SCAN ME

POOR BOX DONATIONS The donations for next weekend will go to the **Upper Montgomery Assistance Network (UMAN)**. *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.

LENTEN BIBLE STUDIES FOR MEN, WOMEN & GIRLS

- **Lenten Devotional Group Forming Now**
Cultivating Healing and Wholeness in Heart, Soul, Strength and Mind

Tuesdays, February 17-March 31 9:45am-10:45am
Kuehner Room

How can one observe a truly holy Lent? Given that the words 'holy,' 'whole,' 'health,' and 'healing' all share a common root, the season of Lent is an ideal time to focus on healing and wholeness. This Lenten group guided by the devotional booklet, ***Cultivating Healing and Wholeness in Heart, Soul, Strength and Mind***, fosters one's own healing emotionally, spiritually, and physically whereby we can become instruments of healing for others. To sign up, please call Health Ministry Coordinator Betty Baklarz at (301) 412-1909 or e-mail her at lbbaklarz@yahoo.com.

- **Consider Joining a Women's Bible Study**

Make Lent a time to learn more about the wisdom of Christ by joining a six-lesson women's Bible study; this group will meet from 7-8:30 pm Friday, February 13, in the Kuehner Room. *Rooted and Radiant* was written for any woman who wants to live her life grounded in Jesus Christ. In this Bible study, as we study the Letter of St. Paul to the Colossians, we will seek to understand the challenges that faced the Colossians, recognizing that they are remarkably similar to our own challenges today. Purchase *Rooted and Radiant* at www.walkingwithpurpose.com. To register, contact the parish office: dzezzo@sfadw.org or (301) 840-1407

- **Bible Study Exclusively for High School Girls**

Sisters of Strength, a Bible study group for high school-aged girls, will begin meeting Sunday, February 1, from 4-4:45 in the Kuehner Room. The group led by parishioners Eileen Grams and Lita Silva will subsequently gather on March 1, March 15, April 19, and May 3. For more information about *Sisters of Strength* or to register, contact the St. Francis Religious Education Office: sfareli-gioused@sfadw.org or (301) 258-9193.

Anuncios del boletín para el 1 de febrero 2026:

La instalación del sistema HVAC para la iglesia, el espacio de reunión y el centro parroquial comenzará el 9 de febrero

A partir de la semana del 9 de febrero, los equipos planean instalar las nuevas unidades de calefacción, ventilación y aire acondicionado que darán servicio a la iglesia, el Espacio de Reunión y el Centro Parroquial. La instalación del nuevo sistema HVAC implicará la ubicación de una gran grúa y un tráiler frente a la iglesia y en el lateral del edificio durante la semana del 9 al 13 de febrero. Los impactos en las liturgias eclesiales aún se están determinando, pero la celebración de la misa diaria casi con toda seguridad se verá afectada, al igual que el acceso a la iglesia en ciertos días. Por favor, vigile los mensajes y textos de Flocknote para más información a medida que se acerque la fecha de inicio. Para más información, por favor contacte con la Oficina Parroquial en el (301) 840-1407.

Concierto benéfico en Haití que presentará un conjunto musical interpretando canciones populares en tiempos de Shakespeare

¿Le interesa transportarse de vuelta a 1626? Si es así, acompañenos en el Concierto Benéfico Haití a las 7:30 pm del sábado 21 de febrero, en nuestra iglesia. El concierto gratuito contará con The Baltimore Consort, un conjunto de seis miembros que interpreta una amplia gama de música antigua, renacentista y música de épocas posteriores. Fundado en 1980, el conjunto comenzó a especializarse en música de la época isabelina, pero amplió su repertorio para incluir música popular escocesa y francesa de los siglos XVI y XVII. Ofrecerán un programa titulado "In Angel's Wede: Música para Mary, Queen of Scots." No hay cuota de entrada, pero todas las donaciones beneficiarán a nuestra parroquia hermana en Haití. Para más información, por favor contacte con la directora musical Janet Pate en sfadwmusic@gmail.com.

El taller de Oración y Vida en español comienza el 14 de febrero

El Ministerio de Español desea invitar a todos los feligreses hispanohablantes a inscribirse en el Taller de Oración y Vida, una hermosa oportunidad para profundizar en su vida personal de oración y su relación con Dios. El taller comenzará el 14 de febrero. Para más información, consulta los folletos en el Espacio de Reunión.



La cena de pancakes del martes de carnaval tendrá lugar el 17 de febrero

¡Reserve la fecha para la Cena de Pancakes del Martes de Carnaval, el martes 17 de febrero, en el Centro Parroquial! Por favor, traiga a toda su familia para pancakes, bacon, patatas hash brown, fruta y todos los acompañamientos a un precio simbólico. Por favor, vea las Flocknotes del padre John y el boletín para ver un folleto que se publicará próximamente. Para más información, por favor contacte con la coordinadora de Eventos Especiales, Sylvia Jones, en decaffqueen@gmail.com.

Última oportunidad para confirmar asistencia a la cena y baile de agradecimiento a voluntarios adultos

El domingo 1 de febrero es el último día para confirmar asistencia a la Cena de Agradecimiento y Baile de Voluntariado de 6:30 a 10:00 pm del sábado 7 de febrero, en el Centro Parroquial. Con el tema de "Años Locos de los 20", por favor, póngase su vestido de flapper, hebras de perlas y trajes inspirados en "El Gran Gatsby" para bailar toda la noche y compartir con sus compañeros voluntarios del ministerio.

Este evento es para los voluntarios adultos de nuestra parroquia que han servido en un ministerio eclesial durante el último año. Por favor, confirme su asistencia en <https://sfaderwood.flocknote.com/signup/242389>. Para más información, por favor contacte con la Oficina Parroquial en el (301) 840-1407. ¡Gracias!

Estudios Bíblicos de Cuaresma para Hombres, Mujeres y Niños

***Grupo Devocional Cuaresmal Formándose ahora
Cultivando la sanación y la plenitud en el corazón, el alma,
la fuerza y la mente***

Martes, 17 de febrero - 31 de marzo

9:45am-10:45am

Sala Kuehner

¿Cómo se puede observar una Cuaresma verdaderamente santa? Dado que las palabras 'sagrado', 'entero', 'salud' y 'sanación' comparten una raíz común, la temporada de Cuaresma es un momento ideal para centrarse en la sanación y la plenitud. Este grupo de Cuaresma, guiado por el folleto devocional ***Cultivando la Sanación y la Plenitud en el Corazón, el Alma, la Fuerza y la Mente***, fomenta la propia sanación emocional, espiritual y física, por lo que podemos convertirnos en instrumentos de sanación para los demás. Para inscribirse, por favor llame a la coordinadora del Ministerio de Salud, Betty Baklarz, al (301) 412-1909 o envíele un correo electrónico a lbbaklarz@yahoo.com.

Considere unirse a un estudio bíblico para mujeres

Haga de la Cuaresma un momento para aprender más sobre la sabiduría de Cristo uniéndose a un estudio bíblico para mujeres de seis lecciones en inglés; este grupo se reunirá de 7:00 a 8:30 pm el viernes 13 de febrero en la Sala Kuehner. ***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, mientras estudiamos la Carta de San Pablo a los colosenses, buscaremos comprender los desafíos que enfrentaron los colosenses, reconociendo que son notablemente similares a los que enfrentamos hoy. Compre ***Rooted and Radiant*** en www.walkingwithpurpose.com. Para registrarse, contacte con la oficina parroquial: dzezzo@sfadw.org o (301) 840-1407

Estudio bíblico exclusivamente para chicas de secundaria

Hermanas de la Fuerza, un grupo de estudio bíblico para chicas en edad de secundaria, comenzará a reunirse el domingo 1 de febrero, de 4:00 a 4:45 pm, en la Sala Kuehner. El grupo liderado por las feligresas Eileen Grams y Lita Silva se reunirá posteriormente el 1 de marzo, 15 de marzo, 19 de abril y 3 de mayo. Para más información sobre ***las Hermanas de la Fuerza*** o para registrarse, contacte con la Oficina de Educación Religiosa de San Francisco: sfareligioused@sfadw.org o al (301) 258-9193.