

## ST FRANCIS OF ASSISI, DERWOOD

# Mass Intentions

**February 16, 2026 - February 22, 2026**

<b>Monday, 2/16</b>	9:00 a.m.	Anna Mae Becker
<b>Tuesday, 2/17</b>	9:00 a.m.	Meghan Jones
<b>Wednesday, 2/18</b>	9:00 a.m.	Alain Alerte
	12:00 p.m.	Alice Guild
	6:00 p.m.	Jessica Casimir (L)
	7:30 p.m.	Dr. Hector Asuncion
<b>Thursday, 2/19</b>	9:00 a.m.	Vareed & Rosa Nellisery
<b>Friday, 2/20</b>	9:00 a.m.	Jeffrey Koscinski
<b>Saturday, 2/21</b>	5:00 p.m.	<i>Pro populo</i>
<b>Sunday, 2/22</b>	8:00 a.m.	Kathleen Lopez
	9:30 a.m.	Linda Boyle
	11:15 a.m.	Joseph Hornyak
	1:00 p.m.	Homebound Parishioners (L)
	5:00 p.m.	Marlene Russo

**+ In Memoriam Aeternam +**

In your charity, please pray for the repose of the soul of .Josephine Youstra, mother of Chris Youstra.

**Please pray for the sick....** Meghan Fuentes, Trevor Lord, Evelynne Carpentier, Joseph Drerup, Mary Webb, 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 15, 2026**

<b>Sunday:</b>	Sir 15:15-20/Ps 119:1-2, 4-5, 17-18, 33-34/ 1 Cor 2:6-10/Mt 5:17-37 or 5:20-22a, 27-28, 33-34a, 37
<b>Monday:</b>	Jas 1:1-11/Ps 119:67, 68, 71, 72, 75, 76/ Mk 8:11-13
<b>Tuesday:</b>	Jas 1:12-18/Ps 94:12-13a, 14-15, 18-19/ Mk 8:14-21
<b>Wednesday:</b>	Jl 2:12-18/Ps 51:3-4, 5-6ab, 12-13, 14 and 17/2 Cor 5:20-6:2/Mt 6:1-6, 16-18
<b>Thursday:</b>	Dt 30:15-20/Ps 1:1-2, 3, 4 and 6/Lk 9:22-25
<b>Friday:</b>	Is 58:1-9a/Ps 51:3-4, 5-6ab, 18-19/Mt 9:14-15
<b>Saturday:</b>	Is 58:9b-14/Ps 86:1-2, 3-4, 5-6/Lk 5:27-32
<b>Next Sunday:</b>	Gn 2:7-9; 3:1-7/Ps 51:3-4, 5-6, 12-13, 17/ Rom 5:12-19 or 5:12, 17-19/Mt 4:1-11

### THE MUSINGS OF THE PASTOR

Over the past year Robert Cardinal McElroy has met with over four hundred lay leaders from our parishes to get their input on some pastoral goals for the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Washington for the next five years. At the Priest Convocation that Fr. G. and I attended in November 2025, the priests at the convocation were asked to formulate six goals for the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Washington based on the input from the four hundred or so lay leaders.

More recently Bishop Juan Esposito, Vicar General and Moderator of the Curia, wrote to the priests of the Archdiocese of Washington that Cardinal McElroy has assigned a Pastoral Goals Task Force to seek further input from priests and their communities. The intent of the survey is to collect ideas and existing resources, programs, and initiatives that may be in our community or ideas that should be implemented locally or across the Archdiocese of Washington. I am asking our Parish Pastoral Council to assist me in answering this survey.

To help us with this task, I am going to list the survey questions and invite you to respond to the questions of the survey so that we can collect ideas and existing resources, programs, and initiatives that may be in our community or ideas that should be implemented locally or across the Archdiocese of Washington. I am going to list three of the goals and three questions we need to answer for each of the first three goals. I'll list the other three goals and the questions we need to answer for them next week:

**Goal #1: Personal Encounter with Jesus Christ: Foster a Parish Culture which Piercingly Invites People in a Personal Encounter with Jesus Christ.**

1. Ideas, programs or resources that are useful in accomplishing the goal of **inviting people to a personal encounter with Jesus Christ** which could be implemented at the parish level?
2. Ideas, programs or resources that are useful in accomplishing the goal of **inviting people to a personal encounter with Jesus Christ** which could be implemented at the archdiocesan level?
3. Any strong feelings about what does not work?

**Goal #2: Sacramental life of the Church: Formation to deepen the Sacramental Life of the Church.**

1. Ideas, programs or resources that are useful in accomplishing the goal of **deepening the Sacramental life of the Church** which could be implemented at the parish level.
2. Ideas, programs or resources that are useful in accomplishing the goal of **deepening the Sacramental life of the Church** which could be implemented at the archdiocesan level.
3. Any strong feelings about what does not work?

**Goal #3: Formation of the laity as Missionary Disciples: Formation of the laity as Missionary Disciples.**

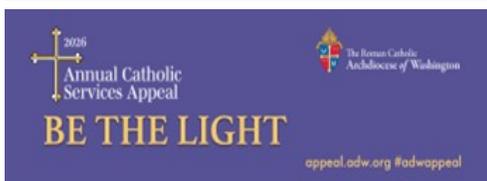
1. Ideas, programs or resources that are useful in accomplishing the goal of forming **the laity as Missionary Disciples** which could be implemented at the parish level?
2. Ideas, programs or resources that are useful in accomplishing the goal of forming **the laity as Missionary Disciples** which could be implemented at the archdiocesan level?
3. Any strong feelings about what does not work?

Until next week,  
**Fr. John**

February 15, 2026

**QUESTION OF THE WEEK**

*In what aspect of my life do I need to accept God's wisdom and the Spirit's guidance and change my behavior?*



**Be the Light:  
The 2026 Annual Catholic Services Appeal:** This weekend we

have been asked prayerfully to consider making a gift to the 2026 Annual Catholic Services Appeal. Please complete or take a commitment form at Mass this weekend or make your gift at [give.adw.org](http://give.adw.org). Visit [appeal.adw.org](http://appeal.adw.org) to learn more about how the Annual Catholic Services Appeal benefits our parish and serves people in need throughout our community. It is our goal that every parish family will participate this year. All gifts will be credited towards our parish goal. Thank you in advance for your generous response to the 2026 Annual Catholic Services Appeal.

**SPIRITUAL ADOPTION PROGRAM:  
A BABY'S DEVELOPMENT IN HIS OR HER  
FIRST MONTH**

From January through October of this year, the Respect Life Ministry is sponsoring a Spiritual Adoption Program, a way for parishioners to pray for an unborn baby whose parents are considering aborting the child. You will never know who this child is, but God does. Take part by praying every day for your spiritually adopted baby and stop by the table in the Gathering Space to learn more about a baby's development. Consider this: *During this first amazing month of life. I have grown to 10,000 times my size at conception. Between my mother and me lies the vital organ called the placenta, which nourishes me and makes me dependent on my mother. By the third week, my heart begins beating.* For more information, please contact Respect Life Coordinator Rose Attig at [ancientoaks2@icloud.com](mailto:ancientoaks2@icloud.com).

**JOIN US AT THE HAITI BENEFIT CONCERT ON  
FEBRUARY 21 TO HEAR MUSIC POPULAR  
DURING SHAKESPEARE'S TIME**

On Saturday, February 21, join us at the Haiti Benefit Concert, as we watch The Baltimore Consort – an early music ensemble that performs English, Scottish, and French popular music from Shakespeare's time – perform at 7:30 pm in the church. The group will perform a program called, "In Angel's Wede: Music for Mary, Queen of Scots." The concert is free, with all at-will donations benefitting our sister parish in Haiti. Please join us after the concert at a reception in the Gathering Space! For more information, please contact Music Director Janet Pate at [sfadwmusic@gmail.com](mailto:sfadwmusic@gmail.com).



**EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION**

Adoration is held on Fridays  
in the CHURCH.

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

*All are welcome to attend.*



**Our Lenten season begins February 18 on Ash Wednesday. Please join us for:**

*Lenten Services and Offerings:*

- **Ash Wednesday Mass:** 9:00 am, 12:00 pm, 6:00 pm, 7:30 pm (Spanish) in the church
- **Stations of the Cross:** 6:00 pm (Spanish) and 7:00 pm (English) Fridays in the church.
- **Lenten Parish Mission:** 7:45 pm Friday in the church.  
February 20

Fr. John Dillon speaks on the theme "Bringing Others to Christ: Serving and Evangelizing Like St. Francis"

*Penance:*

- **Confession:** Confession: 5-7 pm Thursday, February 19, and 3:30-4:30 pm Saturday, February 21, in the St. Clare Chapel of the Rectory (English) and 3:30-4:30 pm Saturday, February 21, in the church confessional (English and Spanish).
- **Lenten Penance Service:** 7 pm March 23 in the church.

*Almsgiving:*

- **Catholic Relief Services Rice Bowl:** Available February 21 in the Gathering Space while supplies last. Pick up a Rice Bowl and commemorate Lent in solidarity with our brothers and sisters in foreign lands.
- **Share the Cross:** Starting February 28 take a cross from the display in the Gathering Space and donate the cost to support the work of the sister parish missions in Haiti.

*Small Group Opportunity:*

- **Lenten Devotional Small Group:** 9:45 am on Tuesdays, February 17, 24 and March 3, 10, 17, 24, 31 in the Kuehner Room. Join the small group discussion on "Cultivating Healing and Wholeness in Heart, Strength, Soul, Mind." Sign-up in the Gathering Space.

**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.

**PARISH OFFICES WILL BE CLOSED  
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 16  
FOR PRESIDENT'S DAY**



## 2025-26 RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

### RE CLASS SCHEDULE REMINDERS

Please note that Religious Education classes will not meet next week, Sunday, Monday, and Tuesday, February 15, 16 and 17 in observance of the Presidents' Day holiday.

### CONFIRMATION CANDIDATE SESSION: THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 19

Confirmation candidates will meet on Thursday, February 19, for Confirmation class from 6:45-8:30 pm in the Parish Center.

### HOMESCHOOL RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PAR- ENT MEETING: FEBRUARY 22

Parents of children registered for our Homeschool Option Religious Education Program are asked to join us by Zoom at 1 pm next Sunday, February 22, for our Unit 4 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 next Sunday, February 22, 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:

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



### UPCOMING EVENTS

#### February 18 – Youth Night

Start off the Lenten season with us! Pizza, scripture, games and fellowship after the 6pm 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.

#### March 4 – Service Night

Come join us in the Parish Center From 7pm-8:30pm and help us make sandwiches for the local soup kitchen.

Email Francesca Santos at [sfayouth@sfadw.org](mailto:sfayouth@sfadw.org) to register.

### RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (*continued*) SNOW/EMERGENCY CANCELLATION POLICY (*continued*)

- 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.

### 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

Soup with meat,

Canned beans except green beans

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 225 families this past week. God Bless You! Thank you for your support.*

## WOMEN'S TRAUMA RECOVERY SUPPORT GROUP

The next Trauma Recovery Support Group for women survivors of all forms of trauma and abuse will begin the week of March 4 - May 6, 2026. Registration is open and the group is limited to 10 participants. For more information go to [adw.org/the-way-retreat](http://adw.org/the-way-retreat) or if you have questions, please contact Deborah A. McDonald, coordinator of The Way programs for Trauma Survivors at [mcdonaldd@adw.org](mailto:mcdonaldd@adw.org).

## BEREAVEMENT SESSIONS

Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church is offering eight (8) bereavement sessions to be conducted remotely on Zoom starting on February 17, 2026, from 7:30 - 9:00 pm. The focus of these group sessions is to provide a framework for grieving individuals to work with others similarly situated in processing their grief together. The sessions will be conducted over eight (8) consecutive Tuesday evenings and will celebrate the life of the lost loved ones. All sessions are virtual (zoom link). The program encourages attendees to share stories of their loss and discuss how the life and death of their loved one has affected their lives. The program is for adults who have experienced the death of a parent, spouse, child, sibling or significant other. The series will begin on Tuesday February 17, 2026, and continue through April 9, 2026. For more information, please contact Jim Hoffman at [hoffmanlpc@gmail.com](mailto:hoffmanlpc@gmail.com) or call his cell at: (202) 577 - 2213.



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



SCAN ME



## HOTCAKES FOR DINNER AT THE SHROVE TUESDAY PANCAKE SUPPER ON FEBRUARY 17

In just two days, it's time for breakfast for dinner! Please join us from 5-8 pm Tuesday, February 17, for the Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper in the Parish Center. Volunteers will be serving up pancakes, scrambled eggs, hashbrowns, sausage and bacon, while you add on the fruit and other sweet trimmings. Cost of admission is \$10 for adults, \$6 for children six to 12, and free for those five and under. Families also eat for just \$30. For more information, please contact Special Events Coordinator Sylvia Jones at [decaffqueen@gmail.com](mailto:decaffqueen@gmail.com).

## LENTEN DAY OF REFLECTION OFFERED FOR PEOPLE LIVING WITH MENTAL ILLNESS, THEIR FAMILIES AND SUPPORTERS

On Saturday, March 14, the archdiocesan Office of Deaf and Disabilities Ministry will sponsor a Lenten Day of Reflection for those living with mental illness, for their family members and their supporters. From 9:30 am-2:30 pm at the Pope Francis Center in Landover Hills, MD, participants will start the day with Eucharistic Adoration, the Rosary, and Mass. Refreshments and lunch will be provided. In the afternoon, the group will reflect on the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops' document *Healing and Hope: A Catholic Response to Mental Health*. The event is free but RSVPs are requested by March 9 by e-mailing [specialneedsministry@adw.org](mailto:specialneedsministry@adw.org) or by calling (301) 853-4560.



## JOIN THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS MONTGOMERY COUNCIL 2323 FOR A LENTEN FISH DINNER ON FEBRUARY 20

Enjoy the Lenten season with family, friends, and the parish community. The first Lenten dinner will be from 6:30-8:30 pm Friday, February 20, at the Father Cuddy Hall, 17001 Overhill Road in Derwood. Tickets will be sold at the door. Prices: \$15 for those seven and up and \$8 for children six and younger. Dine in or takeout are both available.

Dinner includes fried fish, sides, dessert, soda, wine, beer, and coffee. This dinner will support The Little Sisters of the Poor, the Shady Grove Pregnancy Center, and the Fisher House Foundation.

Prepayment for dinners or online donations via credit card is available under the News & Announcement Tab of the KofC Montgomery Council 2323 website: <https://uknight.org/CouncilSite/index.asp?CNO=2323>

For more information, contact Jim Gierula at [jimgierula2323@gmail.com](mailto:jimgierula2323@gmail.com). Follow us on Facebook Follow us on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/kofc2323](http://www.facebook.com/kofc2323). The next dates for Lenten fish dinners are March 6 and 20.

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

## Anuncios del boletín para 15 de febrero 2026:

### ¡Únase a nosotros en los eventos esta primera semana de Cuaresma!

- *Misa de Miércoles de Ceniza:* 9.00 am, 12.00 m, 6.00 y 7.30 pm (en español) en la iglesia
- *Confesión:* de 5.00 a 7.00 pm jueves 19 de febrero, y de 3.30 a 4.30 pm el sábado 21 de febrero, en la capilla de Santa Clara de la rectoría (inglés) y de 3.30 a 4.30 pm, el sábado 21 de febrero, en el confesionario de la iglesia (inglés y español).
- *Vías del Vía Crucis:* 6.00 pm (español) y 7.00 pm (inglés) viernes 20 de febrero, en la iglesia.
- *Misión Parroquial de Cuaresma:* 7.45 pm del viernes 20 de febrero, en la iglesia. El padre John Dillon habla sobre el tema: "Acercando a los demás a Cristo: sirviendo y evangelizando como San Francisco"

### **Programa de Adopción Espiritual: El desarrollo de un bebé en su primer mes**

De enero a octubre de este año, el Ministerio Respect Life patrocina un Programa de Adopción Espiritual, una forma para que los feligreses recen por un bebé no nacido cuyos padres están considerando abortar. Nunca sabrán quién es este niño, pero Dios sí. Participe rezando cada día por su bebé adoptado espiritualmente y pase por la mesa en el Espacio de Reunión para aprender más sobre el desarrollo de un bebé. Considere esto:

*Durante este primer mes increíble de vida. He crecido hasta 10.000 veces mi tamaño en la concepción. Entre mi madre y yo yace el órgano vital llamado placenta, que me nutre y me hace depender de ella. A la tercera semana, mi corazón empieza a latir.*

Para más información, por favor contacte con la coordinadora de Respect Life, Rose Attig, en [ancientoaks2@icloud.com](mailto:ancientoaks2@icloud.com).

### **Cuaresma de Reflexión Ofrecido a Personas que Viven con Enfermedades Mentales, Sus Familias y Apoyos**

El sábado 14 de marzo, la Oficina Arquidiocesana de Ministerio para Sordos y Discapacidades patrocinará un Día de Cuaresma de Reflexión en inglés para quienes viven con enfermedades mentales, para sus familiares y sus simpatizantes. De 9.00 am a 2.30 pm en el Pope Francis Center en Landover Hills, MD, los participantes comenzarán el día con la Adoración Eucarística, el Rosario y la Misa. Se ofrecerán refrigerios y comida. Por la tarde, el grupo reflexionará sobre el documento de la Conferencia de Obispos Católicos de Estados Unidos, *Sanación y esperanza: Una respuesta católica a la salud mental*. El evento es gratuito, pero se solicita confirmar asistencia antes del 9 de marzo enviando un correo electrónico a [specialneedsministry@adw.org](mailto:specialneedsministry@adw.org) o llamando al (301) 853-4560.



### Únase al Consejo Montgomery de los Caballeros de Colón 2323 para una cena de pescado de Cuaresma el 20 de febrero

Disfrute de la Cuaresma con la familia, amigos y la comunidad parroquial. La primera cena de Cuaresma será de 6.30 a 8.30 pm del viernes 20 de febrero en el Father Cuddy Hall, 17001 Overhill Road en Derwood. Las entradas se venderán en la puerta. Precios: 15 dólares para los mayores de siete años y 8 dólares para los niños de seis años o menos. Tanto para comer en casa como para llevar están disponibles.

La cena incluye pescado frito, acompañamientos, postre, refresco, vino, cerveza y café. Esta cena apoyará a The Little Sisters of the Poor, al Shady Grove Pregnancy Center y a la Fisher House Foundation.

El prepagado para cenas o donaciones online con tarjeta de crédito está disponible en la pestaña de Noticias y Anuncios de la web del KofC Montgomery Council 2323: <https://uknight.org/CouncilSite/index.asp?CNO=2323>

Para más información, contacte con Jim Gierula en [jimgierula2323@gmail.com](mailto:jimgierula2323@gmail.com). Síguenos en Facebook en [www.facebook.com/kofc2323](http://www.facebook.com/kofc2323). Las próximas fechas para las cenas de pescado de Cuaresma son el 6 y 20 de marzo.

### Únase a nosotros en el Concierto Benéfico de Haití el 21 de febrero para escuchar música popular en tiempos de Shakespeare

El sábado 21 de febrero, acompáñenos en el Concierto Benéfico Haiti, donde escucharemos al Baltimore Consort – un conjunto de música antigua que interpreta música popular inglesa, escocesa y francesa de la época de Shakespeare – a las 7.30 pm en la iglesia. El grupo interpretará un programa titulado "In Angel's Wede: Música para María, Reina de Escocia." El concierto es gratuito, y todas las donaciones a voluntad benefician a nuestra parroquia hermana en Haití. ¡Acompáñenos después del concierto en una recepción en el Gathering Space! Para más información, por favor contacte con la directora musical Janet Pate en [sfadwmusic@gmail.com](mailto:sfadwmusic@gmail.com).



### Pancakes para cenar en la cena de pancakes del martes carnaval el 17 de febrero

¡En solo dos días, es hora del desayuno para la cena! Únase a nosotros de 5.00 a 8.00 pm el martes 17 de febrero para la Cena de Pancakes del Martes Gordo en el Centro Parroquial. Los voluntarios servirán pancakes, huevos revueltos, patatas hash Brown, salchichas y Bacon, mientras usted añade la fruta y otros acompañamientos dulces. El precio de la entrada es de 10 \$ para adultos, 6 \$ para niños de seis a 12 años y gratuito para los menores de cinco años. Las familias también comen por solo 30 dólares. Para más información, por favor contacte con la Coordinadora de Eventos Especiales, Sylvia Jones, en [decaffqueen@gmail.com](mailto:decaffqueen@gmail.com).