

ST FRANCIS OF ASSISI, DERWOOD

Mass Intentions

March 2 - March 8, 2026

Monday, 3/2	9:00 a.m.	Marlene Russo
Tuesday, 3/3	9:00 a.m.	Xavier Joseph
Wednesday, 3/4	9:00 a.m.	Deacon Andrew Nosacek
	7:30 p.m.	Olivia Prickett
Thursday, 3/5	9:00 a.m.	Jean Lea
Friday, 3/6	9:00 a.m.	Barbara Lynn Beall
	7:30 p.m.	Raul Lorente
Saturday, 3/7	5:00 p.m.	Dolores Santos-Coull
Sunday, 3/8	8:00 a.m.	Kathleen Lopez
	9:30 a.m.	<i>Pro populo</i>
	11:15 a.m.	Anne Muller
	1:00 p.m.	Manuel Hernandez
	5:00 p.m.	Eugene Bunting

Please pray for the sick... Barbara Pedersen, Darcy Henshaw, Brian Ford, Meghan Fuentes, 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 March 1, 2026

Sunday:	Gn 12:1-4a/Ps 33:4-5, 18-19, 20, 22/ 2 Tm 1:8b-10/Mt 17:1-9
Monday:	Dn 9:4b-10/Ps 79:8, 9, 11 and 13/Lk 6:36-38
Tuesday:	Is 1:10, 16-20/Ps 50:8-9, 16bc-17, 21 and 23/ Mt 23:1-12
Wednesday:	Jer 18:18-20/Ps 31:5-6, 14, 15-16/Mt 20:17-28
Thursday:	Jer 17:5-10/Ps 1:1-2, 3, 4 and 6/Lk 16:19-31
Friday:	Gn 37:3-4, 12-13a, 17b-28a/Ps 105:16-17, 18-19, 20-21/Mt 21:33-43, 45-46
Saturday:	Mi 7:14-15, 18-20/Ps 103:1-2, 3-4, 9-10, 11-12/ Lk 15:1-3, 11-32
Next Sunday:	Ex 17:3-7/Ps 95:1-2, 6-7, 8-9/Rom 5:1-2, 5-8/ Jn 4:5-42 or 4:5-15, 19b-26, 39a, 40-42

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

Adoration is held on Fridays
in the **CHURCH**.
9:30 a.m. - 12:00 Noon
All are welcome to attend.



THE MUSINGS OF THE PASTOR

Today is the Second Sunday of Lent. This afternoon our catechumens and candidates will be going to the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington for the Rite of Election. A catechumen is someone preparing to receive all the Sacraments of Initiation (Baptism, Confirmation, and the Holy Eucharist) at the Easter Vigil. The candidate is someone who has already been baptized but is preparing to receive the other Sacraments of Initiation at the Easter Vigil. If the Candidate was not baptized in the Catholic Church, he or she will be received into the Catholic Church just before receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation at the Easter Vigil.

Often the Rite of Election is celebrated in the diocesan cathedral. But not in the Archdiocese of Washington. The reason is that the Cathedral of Saint Matthew the Apostle, our archdiocesan cathedral, is simply too small for the occasion. Instead, the Rite of Election is held at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, which is the largest Catholic Church building in North America and one of the ten largest churches in the world. The Upper Church, where the Rite of Election is held every year, has a seating capacity of 3,500 people. But the Archdiocese has so many catechumens and candidates that the Rite of Election is held on the First and Second Sundays of Lent. In that way all the catechumens and candidates of the 139 parishes can be greeted by Cardinal McElroy and encouraged to persevere in their Lenten journey to receive the sacraments at the Easter Vigil. It is a wonderful problem to have—that we all cannot fit in the Upper Church of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in only one ceremony.

I remember a conversation that I had with a catechumen after the Rite of Election several years ago. He was stunned at how many people were going to receive all the Easter Sacraments at Easter Vigil. “I knew that I was part of something important, but my experience was only a few people doing this in our parish setting. I had no idea that so many people were going to do the same thing that I am doing!”

Let’s continue our prayers for our catechumens and candidates!

Until next week,
Fr. John

March 1, 2026

QUESTION OF THE WEEK

How can I see myself transfigured between now and Easter? How will accepting my cross and following Jesus more closely help transform my life??

NEW ALTAR SERVER TRAINING

STUDENTS

Saturday, March 14 at 10 am in the Church

Students entering 4th grade and older who have already received their First Communion are eligible to attend training

ADULT SERVERS

Sunday, March 15 at 6:15 pm in the Church.

If you are interested in becoming a student or adult server, please call the Parish Office, 301-840-1407 to register.

Thank you!

NEW HEATING, VENTILATION AND AIR CONDITIONING (HVAC) SYSTEM TO BE INSTALLED THIS WEEK IN THE CHURCH

Starting the week of March 2, crews are expected to begin installing the new HVAC system in the church, as part of the improvements funded by our recent capital campaign. The parish anticipates that a large crane will be situated in different areas of the parking lot to lift the multi-ton units onto the roof, which will prohibit access into the church from the front doors on certain days. Impacts on daily Mass and the meeting of some ministries in the church were not available at the time this issue of the bulletin was published. Please watch Fr. John's Flocknotes for information on impacts from the HVAC installation. Let's all exercise patience as this long-needed improvement will hopefully be done. If you have any questions, please contact the Parish Office at (301) 840-1407.



**Join the Knights of Columbus
Montgomery Council 2323
on March 6 for a Lenten Baked
Salmon Dinner**

Join the Knights of Columbus Council 2323 from 6:30-8:30 Friday, March 6, for their second Lenten Dinner at the Father Cuddy Hall, 17001 Overhill Road, in Derwood. Tickets will be sold at the door for a sit-down or carry-out dinner. Prices are \$17 for persons over seven and \$8 for children six and younger.

Dinner includes baked salmon, shrimp scampi, 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 Joe Merritt at jem15319@gmail.com or text him at (703) 635-5488. Follow the Knights on Facebook at www.facebook.com/kofc2323



Join Us for Events this third Week of Lent!

- **Confession:**
5-7 pm Thursday, February 26, and 3:30-4:30 pm Saturday, March 7, in the St. Clare Chapel of the Rectory (English) and 3:30-4:30 pm Saturday, March 7, in the church confessional (English and Spanish).
- **Stations of the Cross:**
6 pm (Spanish) and 7 pm (English) Friday, March 6, in the church.
- **Vocations Tree :** Please pick up a card from the Vocations Tree in the Gathering Space to pray for one of the seminarians in the Archdiocese of Washington. These young men need our prayers this Lent, as they discern their vocation.

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 quietly in front of a priest and receiving the Church's blessing. In that way, one would become eligible to receive the Sacraments of the Church, especially the Eucharist.



HOOPS FOR HAITI TAKING PLACE ON MARCH 14 AT GOOD COUNSEL HIGH SCHOOL

In less than two weeks, the Haiti Ministry will welcome families, couples, and individuals to the Hoops for Haiti basketball event happening Saturday, March 14, at Our Lady of Good Counsel High

School in Olney. Please put together a team of three to five people and sign up to play in the 3 x 3 basketball tournament that will start in the late afternoon. Adults of all ages are encouraged to sign up to play on the veteran adult and the young adult teams, whose game will serve as the main event. Admission to the event is free, but please pick up a ticket this weekend at the Just Haiti Coffee table so organizers can track attendance. For more information, please contact Dan Cardile at dancardile@yahoo.com or Wendel Hall at whall@hallglobal.net.



2025-26 RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

CONFIRMATION RETREAT: SATURDAY, MARCH 7

Confirmation Candidates are reminded that our Confirmation Retreat will be on Saturday, March 7, beginning in the Parish Center at 10:00 am and concluding with 5:00 pm Mass. Parents are asked to attend the 5:00 pm Mass with the Confirmation Candidates.

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, March 8, 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

A reminder to families of children preparing to celebrate First Eucharist this year: the next First Eucharist Parent Meetings will be held in the Parish Center on Wednesday, March 11 and Thursday, March 12 at 7:30 pm. Parents are asked to attend one of these in-person meetings. 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.



UPCOMING EVENTS

March 4 – Youth Night

Pizza, games, scripture and prayer.
Join us for our kickoff night on Mercy (rescheduled from January).
Meet in Parish Center from 7 - 8:30pm.

March 14 – Hoops for Haiti

Join in the annual parish basketball tournament. See bulletin and parish website for more details.

March 18 – Youth Night

Pizza, games, scripture and prayer.
Join us for Mercy Part II.
Meet in Parish Center from 7 - 8:30pm.

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



Empowering Growth in Ghana

By supporting CRS Rice Bowl, you help parents and caregivers in Ghana to receive training in health, nutrition and early childhood development. That means, young children in these communities are better able to thrive and meet critical milestones in their growth. Visit crsricebowl.org/week-2 to read this week's Story of Hope.

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

Infant Diapers Sizes 5 & 6

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

Your donations supported 301 families this past week. God Bless You! Thank you for your support.



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 dedicat-

ed 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

LEARN MORE ABOUT THE PERMANENT DIACONATE

Could you be called to be a deacon? If you are a Catholic man interested in learning more about the Permanent Diaconate in the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Washington, please join one of our meetings about the diaconate. Visit https://www.adw.org/vocations/deacons/formation_program/ for more details and requirements. There are multiple sessions around the MD/DC area through March 13, 2026. Also, see the posted flyers in the church for details of the sessions' locations.

RETRouvaille: HELP FOR MARRIAGES

Retrouvaille (pronounced retro-vi with a long i) helps couples through difficult times in their marriage. Persons seeking confidential information about Retrouvaille should visit www.helpourmarriage.org or call 443-400-7017. You can also email 3015@helpourmarriage.org.

MOURNING THE DEATH OF A CHILD

The Compassionate Friends (TCF) is an organization that can offer help to bereaved parents. TCF is an informal support group of mothers and fathers who know and understand the tragic impact that the death of a child has on a family. Meetings are held on the first Thursday of each month at 7 pm at Potomac Presbyterian Church, 10301 River Road, Potomac MD 20854. There are no professional counselors, only parents who are willing to share their experiences with non-judgmental and understanding listeners. Everything is confidential, and there are no fees. For additional information or questions, please call Barbara Beall, a member of St. Francis of Assisi Parish at 301-253-8740 or email her at oldedish@starpower.net.

Pastor Asks Parish Pastoral Council to Form Subcommittee to Address Pastoral Goals

Following Cardinal Robert McElroy's release of six pastoral goals that he hopes archdiocesan parishes will begin working to achieve over the next five years, Fr. John Dillon asked members of the Parish Pastoral Council at their meeting February 19 to form a subcommittee to begin reviewing those aspirations.

The pastor's request was the next step in a process started by Cardinal McElroy, in which he held listening sessions throughout 2025 with parish lay leaders to hear their concerns about their parishes. With those concerns before them, archdiocesan priests meeting at their Priest Convocation last November then identified the following six goals to begin addressing the lay leaders' concerns:

- Help lay people forge a personal encounter with Jesus Christ
- Provide formation which deepens the sacramental life of the Church
- Form the laity as missionary disciples
- Reverse the tide of young people leaving the Church
- Celebrate and evangelize married life
- Offer care for the vulnerable: migrants, the unborn and the marginalized

Although no council members immediately volunteered for the subcommittee, Fr. John asked them to contact him, should they want to serve.

Under other business, the council members also:

- Learned that the church's new heating, ventilation and air conditioning system would be installed the week of March 2, weather permitting.
- Gave suggestions for how the parish might celebrate the Year of St. Francis.
- Weighed in on whether prospective members to the Parish Pastoral Council might be immediately appointed or come on after current members complete their terms.
- Heard reports from the Religious Education, Youth Ministry, Adult Faith Formation/Social Concerns, and Communications ministries.
- Heard reports from the coordinators of the New Neighbor Interfaith Alliance, the Knights of Columbus Montgomery Council 2323, and Couples for Christ.

If you have questions about past council business, then please review minutes to the Parish Pastoral Council meetings at <https://www.sfadw.org/pastoral-council-meeting-minutes>. For more information about the Parish Pastoral Council, please contact Fr. John at (301) 840-1407.

POOR BOX DONATIONS The donations for next weekend will go to the **Shady Grove Pregnancy Center**. *Thank you for your generosity!*

Anuncios del boletín para el 1 fr marzo de 2026:

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

- **Confesión:** de 5 a 7 pm jueves 5 de marzo y de 3.30 a 4.30 pm el sábado 7 de marzo en la Capilla Santa Clara de la Rectoría (inglés) y de 3.30 a 4.30 pm el sábado 7 de marzo, en el confesionario de la iglesia (inglés y español).
- **Vías del Via Crucis:** 6 pm (español) y 7 pm (inglés) viernes 6 de marzo, en la iglesia.
- Por favor, recoja una tarjeta del Árbol de Vocaciones en el Espacio de Reunión para orar por uno de los seminaristas de la Arquidiócesis de Washington. Estos jóvenes necesitan nuestras oraciones esta Cuaresma, mientras discernen su vocación.

Nuevo sistema de calefacción, ventilación y aire acondicionado previsto para instalarse esta semana en la iglesia

A partir de la semana del 2 de marzo, se espera que los equipos comiencen a instalar el nuevo sistema de calefacción, ventilación y aire acondicionado en la iglesia, como parte de las mejoras financiadas por nuestra reciente campaña de capital. La parroquia prevé que se coloque una gran grúa en diferentes zonas del aparcamiento para elevar las unidades de varias toneladas al tejado, lo que prohibirá el acceso a la iglesia desde las puertas principales en ciertos días.

No estaban disponibles los impactos en cómo se celebraba la Misa diaria y la reunión de algunos ministerios en la iglesia en el momento en que se publicó este número del boletín. Por favor, consulte Flocknotes del padre John para obtener información sobre los impactos de la instalación HVAC. Tengamos paciencia porque esta mejora tan necesaria esperamos que se lleve a cabo. Si tiene alguna pregunta, por favor contacte con la Oficina Parroquial en el (301) 840-1407



Hoops for Haiti tendrá lugar el 14 de marzo en el instituto Good Counsel

En menos de dos semanas, el Ministerio de Haití dará la bienvenida a familias, parejas e individuos al evento de baloncesto Hoops for Haiti que tendrá lugar el sábado 14 de marzo en el institu-

to Our Lady of Good Counsel en Olney. Por favor, forme un equipo de tres a cinco personas e inscribáse para jugar en el torneo de baloncesto 3 x 3 que comenzará a última hora de la tarde. Se anima a adultos de todas las edades a inscribirse para jugar en los equipos veterano adulto y juvenil, cuyo juego será el evento principal.

La entrada al evento es gratuita, pero por favor compre una entrada este fin de semana en la mesa de café de Just Haiti para que los organizadores puedan seguir la asistencia. Para más información, por favor contacte con Dan Cardile en dancardile@yahoo.com o Wendel Hall en whall@hallglobal.net.

El párroco pide al Consejo Pastoral Parroquial que forme un subcomité para abordar los objetivos pastorales

Tras la publicación por parte del cardenal Robert McElroy de seis objetivos pastorales que espera que las parroquias archidiocesanas comiencen a trabajar para alcanzar en los próximos cinco años, el padre John Dillon pidió a los miembros del Consejo Pastoral Parroquial en su reunión del 19 de febrero que formaran un subcomité para comenzar a revisar esas aspiraciones.

La petición del párroco fue el siguiente paso en un proceso iniciado por el cardenal McElroy, en el que mantuvo sesiones de escucha durante todo 2025 con líderes laicos parroquiales para conocer sus preocupaciones sobre sus parroquias. Con esas preocupaciones ante ellos, los sacerdotes arquidiocesanos reunidos en su Convocatoria de Sacerdotes el pasado noviembre identificaron los siguientes seis objetivos para comenzar a atender las preocupaciones de los líderes laicos:

- Ayudar a los laicos a forjar un encuentro personal con Jesucristo
- Proporcionar formación que profundice la vida sacramental de la Iglesia
- Formar a los laicos como discípulos misioneros
- Invertir la marea de los jóvenes que abandonan la Iglesia
- Celebrar y evangelizar la vida matrimonial
- Ofrecer atención a los vulnerables: migrantes, no nacidos y marginados

Aunque ningún miembro del consejo se ofreció inmediatamente para el subcomité, el padre John les pidió que se pusieran en contacto con él si querían servir.

En otros asuntos, los miembros del consejo también:

- Supieron que el nuevo sistema de calefacción, ventilación y aire acondicionado de la iglesia se instalaría la semana del 2 de marzo, si el tiempo lo permite.
- Dieron sugerencias sobre cómo la parroquia podría celebrar el Año de San Francisco.
- Opinaron sobre si los futuros miembros del Consejo Pastoral Parroquial podrían ser nombrados de inmediato o incorporarse después de que los miembros actuales completaran sus mandatos.
- Escucharon informes de los ministerios de Educación Religiosa, Ministerio Juvenil, Formación en la Fe/Asuntos Sociales para Adultos y Comunicaciones.
- Escucharon informes de los coordinadores de la New Neighbor Interfaith Alliance, el Consejo Montgomery 2323 de los Caballeros de Colón y Parejas por Cristo.

Si tiene preguntas sobre asuntos pasados del consejo, por favor revise las actas de las reuniones del Consejo Pastoral Parroquial en <https://www.sfadw.org/pastoral-council-meeting-minutes>. Para más información sobre el Consejo Pastoral Parroquial, por favor contacte con el P. John en el (301) 840-1407.