

ST FRANCIS OF ASSISI, DERWOOD

Mass Intentions

March 16 - March 22, 2026

Monday, 3/16	9:00 a.m.	Kathleen Lopez
Tuesday, 3/17	9:00 a.m.	Gaby & Rod O'Connor
Wednesday, 3/18	9:00 a.m.	Joseph Mastronardi
	7:30 p.m.	Daniel Price
Thursday, 3/19	9:00 a.m.	P.J. Aley Kutty
Friday, 3/20	9:00 a.m.	Maria Kutty John
Saturday, 3/21	5:00 p.m.	George Beall
Sunday, 3/22	8:00 a.m.	Kathleen Lopez
	9:30 a.m.	Juan Asuncion, Jr.
	11:15 a.m.	Lattha John
	1:00 p.m.	<i>Pro populo</i>
	5:00 p.m.	Rosalinda Brown

+ In Memoriam Aeternam +

In your charity, please pray for the repose of the souls of Pat Badolato, wife of Jim Badolato, Gloria Esperanza, mother of Claudia Bartolini, Bernard Alexander, husband of Yvonne Alexander, Barbara Pedersen.

Please pray for the sick.... Paul Casey, Nubia Navarro, Darcy Henshaw, Brian Ford, 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 15, 2026

Sunday:	1 Sm 16:1b, 6-7, 10-13a/Ps 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6/ Eph 5:8-14/Jn 9:1-41 or 9:1, 6-9, 13-17, 34-38
Monday:	Is 65:17-21/Ps 30:2 and 4, 5-6, 11-12a and 13b/ Jn 4:43-54
Tuesday:	Ez 47:1-9, 12/Ps 46:2-3, 5-6, 8-9/Jn 5:1-16
Wednesday:	Is 49:8-15/Ps 145:8-9, 13cd-14, 17-18/ Jn 5:17-30
Thursday:	2 Sm 7:4-5a, 12-14a, 16/Ps 89:2-3, 4-5, 27 and 29/Rom 4:13, 16-18, 22/Mt 1:16, 18-21, 24a or Lk 2:41-51a
Friday:	Wis 2:1a, 12-22/Ps 34:17-18, 19-20, 21 and 23/ Jn 7:1-2, 10, 25-30
Saturday:	Jer 11:18-20/Ps 7:2-3, 9bc-10, 11-12/Jn 7:40-53
Next Sunday:	Ez 37:12-14/Ps 130:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 7-8/ Rom 8:8-11/Jn 11:1-45 or 11:3-7, 17, 27, 33b- 45 20-27, 33b-45

THE MUSINGS OF THE PASTOR

I have been reading the Message of Pope Francis for Lent 2020. I think that it is quite good. For that reason, I want to share it with you. Because of its length I will share it with you in the next two columns. Here is the first part for your reflection and study.

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

This year the Lord grants us, once again, a favorable time to prepare to celebrate with renewed hearts the great mystery of the death and resurrection of Jesus, the cornerstone of our personal and communal Christian life. We must continually return to this mystery in mind and heart, for it will continue to grow within us in the measure that we are open to its spiritual power and respond with freedom and generosity.

1. The Paschal mystery as the basis of conversion

Christian joy flows from listening to, and accepting, the Good News of the death and resurrection of Jesus. This *kerygma* sums up the mystery of a love “so real, so true, so concrete, that it invites us to a relationship of openness and fruitful dialogue” (*Christus Vivit*, 117). Whoever believes this message rejects the lie that our life is ours to do with as we will. Rather, life is born of the love of God the Father, from his desire to grant us life in abundance (cf. *Jn* 10:10). If we listen instead of the tempting voice of the “father of lies” (*Jn* 8:44), we risk sinking into the abyss of absurdity, and experiencing hell here on earth, as all too many tragic events in the personal and collective human experience sadly bear witness.

In this Lent of 2020, I would like to share with every Christian what I wrote to young people in the Apostolic Exhortation *Christus Vivit*: “Keep your eyes fixed on the outstretched arms of Christ crucified, let yourself be saved over and over again. And when you go to confess your sins, believe firmly in his mercy which frees you of your guilt. Contemplate his blood poured out with such great love, and let yourself be cleansed by it. In this way, you can be reborn ever anew” (No. 123). Jesus’ Pasch is not a past event; rather, through the power of the Holy Spirit it is ever present, enabling us to see and touch with faith the flesh of Christ in those who suffer.

2. The urgency of conversion

It is good to contemplate more deeply the paschal mystery through which God’s mercy has been bestowed upon us. Indeed, the experience of mercy is only possible in a “face to face” relationship with the crucified and risen Lord “who loved me and gave himself for me” (*Gal* 2:20), in a heartfelt dialogue between friends. That is why prayer is so important in Lent. Even more than a duty, prayer is an expression of our need to respond to God’s love which always precedes and sustains us. Christians pray in the knowledge that, although unworthy, we are still loved. Prayer can take any number of different forms, but what truly matters in God’s eyes is that it penetrates deep within us and chips away at our hardness of heart, in order to convert us ever more fully to God and to his will.

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

March 15, 2026

QUESTION OF THE WEEK

What are my blind spots? What biases do I have that distort the way I see others or see the world? Am I willing to ask someone I know well to be honest with me?

CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICES COLLECTION

This week is the Catholic Relief Services Collection. This collection reveals Christ's love to our brothers and sisters in need. This collection makes grants to six Catholic agencies that provide relief and support for struggling communities and work for peace and reconciliation among our marginalized brothers and sisters, both here and around the world. Please prayerfully consider how you can support the collection. Learn more about this collection at www.usccb.org/catholic-relief.

NEW HVAC SYSTEM FOR THE CHURCH, GATHERING SPACE & PARISH CENTER NOW LARGELY OPERATIONAL

With the installation of the new heating, ventilation and air conditioning system for the church, Gathering Space and Parish Center largely completed on March 5, contractors involved are tying up the final loose ends before inspections can be completed and the project put to bed. Carrier, the HVAC vendor, needs to complete a final startup of the air conditioning functions on the largest 50-ton HVAC units and ensure all checklist items are completed. In coming weeks, both Montgomery County and Carrier will be conducting their final inspections of the HVAC system, before it is considered 'passed.' In any case, the installed HVAC units are heating the church, just in time for spring. Fr. John, Fr. G, and the parish staff would like to thank all donors to the recent "Upgrading Our Parish Home for Our Children's Children" capital campaign, whose funds made possible this needed improvement to the parish campus. For more information, please call the Parish Office at (301) 840-1407.

CHILDREN IN GRADES 2-8 INVITED TO TAKE PART IN MUSICAL PLAY ON MAY 2

Is your elementary school-aged child eager to take part in a play this spring? If so, then please have them join the parish Children's Choir, as they present, "Labor Day in the Vineyard," a musical play based on the parable about the laborers in the vineyard, this spring. Written by Choir member Jeffrey B. MacKnight, the play invites children in grades 2 through 8 to take part in acting and singing roles during the performance that will stage at 6 pm Saturday, May 2, in church. For more information, please contact Director of Music Janet Pate at sfadwmusic@gmail.com.

THE MUSINGS OF THE PASTOR (continued)

In this favorable season, then, may we allow ourselves to be led like Israel into the desert (cf. *Hos* 2:14), so that we can at last hear our Spouse's voice and allow it to resound ever more deeply within us. The more fully we are engaged with his word, the more we will experience the mercy he freely gives us. May we not let this time of grace pass in vain, in the foolish illusion that we can control the times and means of our conversion to him.

Until next week,
Fr. John



Join Us for Events this fourth Week of Lent!

- **Confession:**
5-7 pm Thursday, March 19, and 3:30-4:30 pm Saturday, March 14, in the St. Clare Chapel of the Rectory (English) and 3:30-4:30 pm Saturday, March 21, in the church confessional English and Spanish).
- **Stations of the Cross:**
6 pm (Spanish) and 7 pm (English) Friday, March 20, in the church.
- **Lenten Mission Talk:**
7:45 pm, March 20, in the church. Speakers will be Haiti Committee members Ketlard Boursiquot, Pete Carlson and Dan Simmons, who will speak on the Haiti Ministry having served the educational, healthcare, and economic development needs of people in our sister parish for the past 40 years.
- **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.

ON MARCH 20, JOIN THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS MONTGOMERY COUNCIL 2323 FOR A LENTEN FISH TACO DINNER On Friday, March 20, join the Knights of Columbus Montgomery Council 2323 for its final Lenten dinner from 6:30-8:30 pm at the Father Cuddy Hall, 17001 Overhill Road, in Derwood. Diners can choose between eating onsite or carry out. Tickets will be sold at the door or in advance. Dinner includes fish tacos, sides, soda, wine, beer, and coffee. The price will be \$15 for adults and \$8 for children six and younger. 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 us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/kofc2323

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



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, March 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 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.

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.



UPCOMING EVENTS

March 18 – Youth Night

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

April Service Opportunity TBD

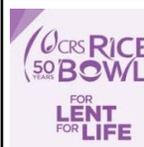
April 15 – Youth Night

Pizza, games, scripture and prayer.
Meet in Parish Center from 7 - 8:30pm.

April 29 – Youth Night

Pizza, games, scripture and prayer.
Meet in Parish Center from 7 - 8:30pm.

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



Feeding Dreams in Timor-Leste

By participating in CRS Rice Bowl, we're helping young people in Timor-Leste find opportunities and support to fulfill their dreams of becoming leaders in their communities. Visit crsricebowl.org/week-4 to read about Adriana's dream of becoming a doctor in this week's Story of Hope.

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 March we will meet March 17, 24 & 31. 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.

QUO VADIS EXCURSION IN PRICE GEORGE'S COUNTY SUNDAY, MARCH 22, 10AM-3PM

Are you a young man in high school who wants to learn more about the priesthood? Please register now for our excursion to Bowie. The day starts at 10am with Mass at Sacred Heart Catholic Church followed by lunch and talks. Next venture to Sky zone trampoline park for an afternoon of jumping, sports, games and fellowship. The excursion concludes with Rosary at Sacred Heart Chapel. There is no charge but you must register by March 18 at <https://dcpriest.org/event/2026-quivadis-excursion-to-prince-georges-county/>

ST. MARTIN'S FOOD PANTRY SHORTAGES

Prioritized Needs Include:

1. Pasta (Dry 1 pound boxes or bags) Our biweekly shortage is 300 pounds
2. "Meals in a can" or canned pasta with meat - 1 pound cans- Ravioli, Lasagna, Spaghetti with Meat. Biweekly shortage is 180 cans
3. Canned soup. Biweekly demand is 1,360 cans
4. Canned corn or green beans. Current biweekly shortage of each is 80 cans.

No diapers are required at this time.

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

God Bless You! Thank you for your support.

SAVE THE DATE

PARISH YARD SALE
April 18, 2026 8am - 12pm

Watch the bulletin for donation drop off dates.

SEMINARIAN PREPARING FOR MILITARY SERVICE TO SPEAK MARCH 17 AT KNIGHTS SPEAKER EVENT The Knights of Columbus Montgomery Council 2323 and the Sullivan Brothers Assembly 2861 will host a speaker in the seminary who is in formation for the priesthood with the Archdiocese of Military Services. Lt. CJ Wild will speak at 8 pm Tuesday, March 17, at the Father Cuddy Hall, 17001 Overhill Road in Derwood. All parish families are invited to attend and hear about the unique faith journey of this future military chaplain. Light refreshments will follow the presentation. For more information, contact Steven Willer at (202) 809-6784



EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

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

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

All are welcome to attend.



Montgomery Council 2323 is 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

EVENTS DURING HOLY WEEK AND THE TRIDUUM

Palm Sunday, March 29:

- Please note that the 8 am Mass on Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday will begin at 7:45 am to ease traffic congestion that often occurs in the parking lot between the first two Masses on this day.
- Outdoor Stations of the Cross: 3 pm in the Outdoor Stations of the Cross.

Holy Thursday, April 2:

- Morning Prayer: 9 am in the church.
- Mass of the Lord's Supper: 7:30 pm in the church. *Incense will be used during the liturgy. The Blessed Sacrament will be transferred to the Kuehner Room, where it will repose until midnight.*

Good Friday, April 3:

- Morning Prayer: 9 am in the church.
- Seven Last Words of Christ: 11:30 am in the church
- Family Stations of the Cross: 1:30 pm in the church
- Stations of the Cross in English: 3 pm in the church
- Stations of the Cross in Spanish: 4 pm in the church
- Passion of Our Lord: 7:30 pm in the church *All worshippers are invited to venerate the cross by bowing before it.*

Holy Saturday, April 4:

- Morning Prayer: 9 am in the St. Clare Chapel of the Rectory
- Blessing of the Easter food baskets: 12 pm in the church
- Easter Vigil: 8 pm in the church. *This Mass will be bilingual and incense will be used.*

Easter Sunday, April 5:

Masses at

- 7:45 am *Note that this Mass, which is typically celebrated at 8 am, will begin 15 minutes early to ease traffic congestion that often occurs in the church parking lot on this holiday.*
- 9:30 am
- 11:15 am
- 1 pm (Spanish)

(Please note there is no 5 pm Sunday Mass on Easter Sunday).

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

Thank you to everyone who continues to send in their pledge contributions. Many of you are also making use of the Capital Campaign envelope that comes with your monthly Saint Francis envelope package.

Remember you can also donate online at the ParishSoft Giving website: <https://giving.parishsoft.com/App/Giving/FD-110>. If you were previously enrolled in Faith Direct, you can use your Faith Direct credentials to log into ParishSoft Giving. **Thank you!**

Anuncios del boletín para el 15 de marzo de 2026:

Únase a nosotros en los eventos de Cuaresma esta semana:

- **Confesión:** de 5 a 7 pm jueves 19 de marzo, y de 3.30 a 4.30 pm el sábado 21 de marzo, en la capilla de Santa Clara de la rectoría (inglés) y de 3.30 a 4.30 pm, el sábado 21 de marzo, en el confesionario de la iglesia (inglés y español).
- **Estaciones del Vía Crucis:** 6 pm (español) y 7 pm (inglés) viernes 20 de marzo, en la iglesia.
- **Charla de misión de Cuaresma:** 7.45 pm, 20 de marzo, en la iglesia. Los ponentes serán los miembros del Comité de Haití Ketlard Boursiquot, Pete Carlson y Dan Simmons, quienes hablarán sobre el Ministerio de Haití que ha atendido las necesidades educativas, sanitarias y de desarrollo económico de las personas de nuestra parroquia hermana durante los últimos 40 años.
- 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. Además, por favor recoja una cruz en la exposición Comparte la Cruz en el Espacio de Reunión, que permite a los feligreses donar el coste de los servicios que benefician a nuestros hermanos y hermanas haitianos.

Niños de 2º a 8º curso invitados a participar en una obra musical el 2 de mayo

¿Su hijo en edad de primaria está deseando participar en una obra de teatro esta primavera? Si es así, por favor, que se unan al Coro Infantil parroquial, mientras presentan esta primavera "Labor Day in the Vineyard", una obra musical basada en la parábola sobre los trabajadores del viñedo. Escrita por el miembro del coro Jeffrey B. MacKnight, la obra invita a niños de 2º a 8º grado a participar en papeles de interpretación y canto durante la función que se representará a las 6 pm del sábado 2 de mayo en la iglesia. Para más información, por favor contacte con la Directora de Música Janet Pate en sfad-wmusic@gmail.com.

Nuevo sistema HVAC para la iglesia, espacio de reunión y centro parroquial ahora en gran parte operativo

Con la instalación del nuevo sistema de calefacción, ventilación y aire acondicionado para la iglesia, el Espacio de Reunión y el Centro Parroquial prácticamente finalizado el 5 de marzo, los contratistas implicados están cerrando los últimos cabos sueltos antes de que se puedan completar las inspecciones y cerrar el proyecto. Carrier, el proveedor de HVAC, debe completar el arranque final de las funciones de aire acondicionado en las unidades más grandes de 50 toneladas y asegurarse de que se cumplan todas las tareas de la lista de comprobación. En las próximas semanas, tanto el condado de Montgomery como Carrier realizarán sus inspecciones finales del sistema HVAC antes de que se considere 'aprobado'.

En cualquier caso, los aparatos de aire acondicionado instalados están calentando la iglesia, justo a tiempo para la primavera.

El padre John, el padre G y el personal parroquial quieren agradecer a todos los donantes de la reciente campaña de capital "Mejorando nuestro hogar parroquial para nuestros hijos de niños", cuyos fondos hicieron posible esta mejora necesaria en el campus parroquial. Para más información, por favor llame a la Oficina Parroquial al (301) 840-1407.

Eventos durante la Semana Santa y el Triduo:

Domingo de Ramos, 29 de marzo:

- Tenga en cuenta que la misa de las 8 de la mañana en Domingo de Ramos y Domingo de Pascua comenzará a las 7.45 para aliviar la congestión del tráfico que suele ocurrir en el aparcamiento entre las dos primeras misas de este día.
- Estaciones de la Cruz al aire libre: a las 3 pm en las Estaciones de la Cruz al aire libre.

Jueves Santo, 2 de abril:

- Oración matutina: 9 de la mañana en la iglesia.
- Misa de la Cena del Señor: 7.30 pm en la iglesia. El incienso se usará durante la liturgia. El Santísimo Sacramento será trasladado a la Sala Kuehner, donde permanecerá hasta la medianoche.

Viernes Santo, 3 de abril:

- Oración matutina: 9 de la mañana en la iglesia.
- Siete últimas palabras de Cristo: 11.30 am en la iglesia
- Estaciones Crucis Familiares: 1.30 pm en la iglesia
- Vías del Vía Crucis en inglés: 3 pm en la iglesia
- Vías del Crucis en español: 4 pm en la iglesia
- Pasión de Nuestro Señor: 7.30 pm en la iglesia *Todos los fieles están invitados a venerar la cruz inclinándose ante ella.*

Sábado Santo, 4 de abril:

- Oración matutina: 9 de la mañana en la capilla de Santa Clara de la rectoría
- Bendición de las cestas de comida de Pascua: 12 pm en la iglesia
- Vigilia Pascual: a las 8 pm en la iglesia. *Esta misa será bilingüe y se usará incienso.*

Domingo de Pascua, 5 de abril:

Misas en

- 7.45 am *Ten en cuenta que esta misa, que normalmente se celebra a las 8 am, comenzará 15 minutos antes para aliviar la congestión del tráfico que suele ocurrir en el aparcamiento de la iglesia en esta festividad.*
- 9.30 am
- 11.15 am
- 1 pm (español)

(Por favor, no hay misa dominical a las 5 pm el domingo de Pascua).

Futuro capellán militar hablará en la charla de los Caballeros de Colón el martes 17 de marzo

En estos tiempos de guerra en Oriente Medio, el próximo orador que se dirija al Consejo Montgomery 2323 de los Caballeros de Colón el martes 17 de marzo podría ser de especial interés para nuestra parroquia en general. Coorganizada por el Consejo de KoC 2323 y la Asamblea de los Hermanos Sullivan 2861, la charla contará con el teniente CJ Wild, seminarista en formación para el sacerdocio en la Arquidiócesis de Servicios Militares, a las 8 pm en el Father Cuddy Hall, 17001 Overhill Road en Derwood. Todas las familias parroquiales están invitadas a asistir y conocer el viaje de fe único de este futuro capellán militar. Para más información, contacte con Steven Willer en el (202) 809-6784.