

ST FRANCIS OF ASSISI, DERWOOD

Mass Intentions

March 23 - March 29, 2026

Monday, 3/23	9:00 a.m.	Dr. Hector Asuncion
Tuesday, 3/24	9:00 a.m.	Zacharia & Aley
Wednesday, 3/25	9:00 a.m.	Reverend Charles Muzzey
	7:30 p.m.	Judith Aitken
Thursday, 3/26	9:00 a.m.	Danny Flynn
Friday, 3/27	9:00 a.m.	George Beall
Saturday, 3/28	5:00 p.m.	George Beall
Sunday, 3/29	7:45 a.m.	Dennis Reising
	9:30 a.m.	Antonio Nabor
	11:15 a.m.	Annamaria Joseph
	1:00 p.m.	Homebound Parishioners (L)
	5:00 p.m.	<i>Pro populo</i>

+ In Memoriam Aeternam +

In your charity, please pray for the repose of the souls of Yolanda Rose Nodine, founding parishioner of St. Francis, Luisa Mendez, grandmother of Maria Rivera, Marisol Gallardo.

Please pray for the sick... Paul Casey, Nubia Navarro, Darcy Henshaw, 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 22 2026

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, 20-27, 33b-45
Monday:	Dn 13:1-9, 15-17, 19-30, 33-62 or 13:41c-62/Ps 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6/Jn 8:1-11
Tuesday:	Nm 21:4-9/Ps 102:2-3, 16-18, 19-21/Jn 8:21-30
Wednesday:	Is 7:10-14; 8:10/Ps 40:7-8a, 8b-9, 10, 11/Heb 10:4-10/Lk 1:26-38
Thursday:	Gn 17:3-9/Ps 105:4-5, 6-7, 8-9/Jn 8:51-59
Friday:	Jer 20:10-13/Ps 18:2-3a, 3bc-4, 5-6, 7/Jn 10:31-42
Saturday:	Ez 37:21-28/Jr 31:10, 11-12abcd, 13/Jn 11:45-56
Next Sunday:	Mt 21:1-11 (37)/Ps 22:8-9, 17-18, 19-20, 23-24/Is 50:4-7/Phil 2:6-11/Mt 26:14-27:66 or 27:11-54

THE MUSINGS OF THE PASTOR

In my column for today, I want to present the message that Pope Leo delivered for Lent on February 7, 2026. Here it is:

Listening and Fasting: Lent as a Time of Conversion

Dear brothers and sisters,
Lent is a time in which the Church, guided by a sense of maternal care, invites us to place the mystery of God back in the center of our lives, in order to find renewal in our faith and keep our hearts from being consumed by the anxieties and distractions of daily life.

Every path towards conversion begins by allowing the word of God to touch our hearts and welcoming it with a docile spirit. There is a relationship between the word, our acceptance of it and the transformation it brings about. For this reason, the Lenten journey is a welcome opportunity to heed the voice of the Lord and renew our commitment to following Christ, accompanying him on the road to Jerusalem, where the mystery of his passion, death and resurrection will be fulfilled.

Listening

This year, I would first like to consider the importance of making room for the word through **listening**. The willingness to listen is the first way we demonstrate our desire to enter into relationship with someone.

In revealing himself to Moses in the burning bush, God himself teaches us that listening is one of his defining characteristics: "I have observed the misery of my people who are in Egypt; I have heard their cry" (*Ex 3:7*). Hearing the cry of the oppressed is the beginning of a story of liberation in which the Lord calls Moses, sending him to open a path of salvation for his children who have been reduced to slavery.

Our God is one who seeks to involve us. Even today he shares with us what is in his heart. Because of this, listening to the word in the liturgy teaches us to listen to the truth of reality. In the midst of the many voices present in our personal lives and in society, Sacred Scripture helps us to recognize and respond to the cry of those who are anguished and suffering. In order to foster this inner openness to listening, we must allow God to teach us how to listen *as he does*. We must recognize that "the condition of the poor is a cry that, throughout human history, constantly challenges our lives, societies, political and economic systems, and, not least, the Church."

To be continued next week.

Until then,
Fr. John



EMBRACING GOD'S LOVE, UNITED

IN GENEROSITY God created man and woman in his image, reminding us that every person is sacred and reflects God's love. Each of us has a purpose, woven into God's plan.

Our support of CRS Rice Bowl provides hope and opportunity to families around the world. Let's reflect on how our prayers, fasting, and almsgiving can help our sisters and brothers fulfill their potential. Visit crsricebowl.org/week-5 to read this week's Story of Hope.

QUESTION OF THE WEEK

What sins are keeping me entombed, isolated from God's love and from others? What can I do to free myself from my tomb?

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: 3:30 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).



Join Us for Events this fourth Week of Lent!

• **Confession:**

Lenten Penance Service: 7pm Monday, March 23, in the church
 5-7 pm Thursday, March 26, and 3:30-4:30 pm Saturday, March 28, in the St. Clare Chapel of the Rectory (English) and 3:30-4:30 pm Saturday, March 28, in the church confessional English and Spanish).

• **Stations of the Cross:**

6 pm (Spanish) and 7 pm (English) Friday, March 27, in the church.



COME TO DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY CELEBRATION ON APRIL 12

As we look forward to the Easter season, the Couples for Christ Ministry invites all parishioners to its annual celebration of Divine Mercy Sunday on Sunday, April 12. With 2026 as the Year of St. Francis, this year's theme will be "St. Francis, Living the Divine Mercy."

The celebration will begin with a Virtual Novena to Divine Mercy beginning at 3 pm Good Friday, April 3, and ending on April 11. Please join the novena, led by Couples for Christ Handmaids of the Lord, at Zoom link ID: 7972397888, Passcode 9311 at 3 pm each day.

On Divine Mercy Sunday, the celebration will continue at 2:30 pm with a Rosary in the Marian Grotto in the northwest corner of the church. At 3 pm, there will be Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, Confession, and a reflection. Attendees are then invited to attend the regularly scheduled Mass at 5 pm, followed by a potluck dinner in the Rectory's Assisi Room and Youth Room.

For more information, please contact Couples for Christ Ministry Coordinator Cris Flores at cris_jflores@yahoo.com or Liza Flores at lizabflores.50@gmail.com.

CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICES COLLECTION

Thank you for your generous support of The Catholic Relief Services Collection and for revealing Christ's love to those who are poor and marginalized around the world. If you missed the collection, it's not too late to give! Just visit www.usccb.org/nationalcollections for more information.



**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, 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.

**FAMILY STATIONS OF THE CROSS
VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**

A special Stations of the Cross for children and families will be held in the Church on Good Friday, April 3, at 1:30 pm. The stations are an excellent way for families to honor Jesus on this special and solemn day in a way that children of all ages can understand.

Children & Teens (Kindergarten – High School) are invited to volunteer as readers and prayer leaders. No rehearsal is required. Instructions and material are provided ahead of time so children can practice reading at home. To volunteer as a reader, please contact the Religious Education Office at sfareligious@sfadw.org, or 301-258-9193 by March 24.

**NO RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CLASSES
FOR HOLY WEEK & EASTER WEEK**

Religious Education classes will not meet during Holy Week & Easter week:

March 29, 30 & 31 No RE Classes (Holy Week)
April 5, 6 & 7 No RE Classes (Easter week)

Classes resume on April 12, 13 & 14.

**FIRST EUCHARIST PREP DAY
SATURDAY, APRIL 11**

Children preparing to receive First Eucharist will attend a day of preparation on Saturday, April 11 from 9:00 am - 12:30 pm in the Parish Center. Please pray for these children who will receive this Sacrament on Saturday, April 25.



**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>.



UPCOMING EVENTS

April 10 – Service Night

Come care for God’s creation by planting flowers and picking up trash around the church. Please bring work/gardening gloves and long sleeves/pants. Meet in front of the church. 5pm – 7pm.

April 15 – Youth Night

Pizza, games, scripture and prayer. Meet Assisi Room (Rectory). 7 - 8:30pm.

April 25 – Campfire

Join us in front of the church for hotdogs, s’mores, games and music around a small campfire. 7 – 8:30pm.

April 29 – Youth Night

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

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS
Baccalaureate Mass scheduled for
May 17 at the 11:15 am mass.**

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

**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.

**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 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.

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

ST. MARTIN'S FOOD PANTRY SHORTAGES

Prioritized Needs Include:

1. "Meals in a can" or canned pasta with meat - 1 pound cans- Ravioli, Lasagna, Spaghetti with Meat. Biweekly shortage is 700 cans
3. Canned soup. Biweekly demand is 400 cans
4. Canned corn or green beans, Dry Mac & Cheese. Current biweekly shortage of each is 240 cans. each

No diapers are required at this time.

St. Martin's Pantry provided food for 289 families this week. 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.

ANNUAL INDOOR YARD SALE

IN THE PARISH CENTER

Saturday, April 18

8:00 a.m. - 12:00 Noon

Time to spring clean - we welcome your treasures you want to get rid of!

VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE:

Come for the whole time or just a few hours. Whatever time you can work will be appreciated! Sign-up in the Gathering Space this weekend!

Wednesday, April 15,	12:00 p.m..	8:00 p.m.
Thursday, April 16	9:00 a.m. -	8:00 p.m.
Friday, April 17	9:00 a.m. -	8:00 p.m.
Saturday, April 18	7:30 a.m.. -	1:00 p.m.

DROP OFF YOUR DONATIONS IN THE PARISH CENTER

Wednesday, April 15	12:00 p.m.	8:00 p.m.
Thursday, April 16	9:00 a.m. -	8:00 p.m.
Friday, April 17	9:00 a.m. -	5:00 p.m.

WE ARE NOT ACCEPTING CLOTHING OR SHOES

Computers, encyclopedias, entertainment centers, large exercise equipment, magazines, mattresses, rugs, sofa bed sleepers, tires, tube TV's

SEE OUR PARISH LENTEN MISSION TALKS ON THE WEB SITE

Our parish Lenten Mission talks are now finished, but you can still watch them if you missed them. The Communications Ministry recorded the talks, whose theme was "Bringing Others to Christ: Serving and Evangelizing Like St. Francis." Fr John Dillon gave the first talk, an overview of the contributions of people associated with the Franciscan order, and Dr. Jeanine Marino offered the second talk, a reflection on Pope Leo XIV's apostolic exhortation, "Dilexi Te"; both can be found at <https://www.sfadw.org/lenten-parish-mission>. In coming days, the third and fourth talks, reflections on the work of the St. Francis Refugee Committee and the Haiti Committee, will be posted as well. For more information, please contact Communications Coordinator Melissa Egan at megan@sfadw.org.



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

MOTHER OF GOD SCHOOL OPEN HOUSE

20501 Goshen Road, Gaithersburg MD
Thursday, March 26 6:00-7:30 pm

Authentically Catholic
Academically Excellent
Pre-K 3s & 4s

Kindergarten—8th Grade
An RSVP is not required.

Please stop by between 6:00-7:30 pm.

Not available? Contact us for an individual tour
301-990-2088 x12 or admissions@mogschool.com

Anuncios del boletín para el 22 de marzo de 2026:

¡Acompáñenos en los eventos de esta quinta semana de Cuaresma!

- Servicio penitencial de Cuaresma: Lunes, 23 de marzo, 7:00 p. m., en la iglesia.
- Confesiones: Jueves, 26 de marzo, de 5:00 a 7:00 p. m., y sábado, 28 de marzo, de 3:30 a 4:30 p. m., en la Capilla de Santa Clara de la Casa Parroquial (en inglés); y sábado, 28 de marzo, de 3:30 a 4:30 p. m., en el confesionario de la iglesia (en inglés y español).
- Vía Crucis: Viernes, 27 de marzo, 6:00 p. m. (en español) y 7:00 p. m. (en inglés), en la iglesia.



¡Venga a la celebración del Domingo de la Divina Misericordia el 12 de abril!

Mientras aguardamos con expectación la temporada de Pascua, el Ministerio de Parejas para Cristo (*Couples for Christ*) invita a todos los feligreses a su celebración anual del Domingo de la Divina Misericordia, el domingo, 12 de abril. Dado que el año 2026 ha sido designado como el Año de San Francisco, el tema de este año será: «San Francisco: Viviendo la Divina Misericordia».

La celebración comenzará con una Novena Virtual a la Divina Misericordia, la cual dará inicio el Viernes Santo, 3 de abril, a las 3:00 p. m., y concluirá el 11 de abril. Le invitamos a unirse a la novena —dirigida por las Siervas del Señor (*Handmaids of the Lord*) de Parejas para Cristo — a través del enlace de Zoom (ID: 7972397888) y con el código de acceso 9311, todos los días a las 3:00 p. m.

El Domingo de la Divina Misericordia, la celebración continuará a las 2:30 p. m. con el rezo del Rosario en la Gruta Mariana, ubicada en la esquina noroeste de la iglesia. A las 3:00 p. m., se llevará a cabo la Exposición del Santísimo Sacramento, el sacramento de la Confesión y una reflexión. Posteriormente, se invita a los asistentes a participar en la Misa habitual de las 5:00 p. m., seguida de una cena comunitaria (*potluck*) en la Sala Asís y en la Sala de Jóvenes de la Casa Parroquial.

Para más información, por favor comuníquese con el coordinador del Ministerio de Parejas para Cristo, Cris Flores, a través del correo electrónico cris_jflores@yahoo.com, o con Liza Flores en lizabflores.50@gmail.com.

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

¿Está su hijo en edad escolar primaria deseoso de participar en una obra de teatro esta primavera? Si es así, por favor invítelo a unirse al Coro de Niños de la parroquia, el cual presentará El día de trabajo en la viña (*Labor Day in the Vineyard*), una obra musical basada en la parábola de los trabajadores en la viña. Escrita por Jeffrey B. MacKnight, miembro del coro, la obra invita a los niños de 2.º a 8.º grado a participar en papeles de actuación y canto durante la presentación, la cual tendrá lugar el sábado, 2 de mayo a las 6:00 p. m. en la iglesia. Para más información, por favor contacte a la Directora de Música, Janet Pate, en sfadwmusic@gmail.com.

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 3.30 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).

