

# Mass Intentions

## February 20 - February 26

<b>Monday, 2/20</b>	9:00 a.m. Catherine Franck
<b>Tuesday, 2/21</b>	9:00 a.m. Alan Stokely
<b>Wednesday, 2/22</b>	9:00 a.m. Mr. & Mrs. James Landmesser (L) 7:30 p.m. Joyce Patton
<b>Thursday, 2/23</b>	9:00 a.m. Helen Stokely (L)
<b>Friday, 2/24</b>	9:00 a.m. Mr. & Mrs. Urban Hakansson (L)
<b>Saturday, 2/25</b>	9:00 a.m. Adela Timbol 5:00 p.m. Mike Sullivan
<b>Sunday, 2/26</b>	8:00 a.m. Juan & Bievenida Vilaflores 9:30 a.m. Paul Thettayil 11:15 a.m. <i>Pro populo</i> 1:00 p.m. John McAleer Ryan 5:00 p.m. Mr. & Mrs. John Rindos (L)

### + In Memoriam Aeternam +

In your charity, please pray for the repose of the soul of Paul Eshelman, husband of Eileen Eshelman.

**Please pray for the sick....** Tony Chite, Jackie Roebuck King, John McCormick, Bishop William C. Newman, Deacon Wil Pinder, Vincent Price, Alb Alfred, Aisha Dossen, Bob Coyne, Jeni Stepanek, Robert Dax. *(Names will remain on this list for four consecutive weeks, but can be repeated by calling the Office.)*

### Readings for the Week of February 19, 2017

<b>Sunday:</b>	Lv 19:1-2, 17-18/Ps 103:1-4, 8, 10, 12-13/1 Cor 3:16-23/Mt 5:38-48
<b>Monday:</b>	Sir 1:1-10/Ps 93:1-2, 5/Mk 9:14-29
<b>Tuesday:</b>	Sir 2:1-11/Ps 37:3-4, 18-19, 27-28, 39-40/ Mk 9:30-37
<b>Wednesday:</b>	1 Pt 5:1-4/Ps 23:1-3a, 4-6/Mt 16:13-19
<b>Thursday:</b>	Sir 5:1-8/Ps 1:1-4, 6/Mk 9:41-50
<b>Friday:</b>	Sir 6:5-17/Ps 119:12, 16, 18, 27, 34-35/ Mk 10:1-12
<b>Saturday:</b>	Sir 17:1-15/Ps 103:13-18/Mk 10:13-16
<b>Next Sunday:</b>	Is 49:14-15/Ps 62:2-3, 6-9/1 Cor 4:1-5/ Mt 6:24-34

## Scripture Corner

### UNIVERSAL LOVE

Jesus is working to fulfill the Law In today's Gospel (Matthew 5:38-48). He quotes a well-known regulation from the Old Testament – "An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth." (Leviticus 14:40) Revenge should not go to extremes, such as a life for an eye or an arm for a tooth.

Our Lord wants to fulfill that law by insisting that there should be no revenge at all! "Offer no resistance to one who is evil." (Matthew 5:39) For instance, if you are struck on the cheek, or taken to court over a garment, or pressed into service, or asked for money, always go beyond what is being asked of you. This is a strong challenge for all followers of Christ – go beyond what is being asked of you.

A final challenge by Jesus is truly difficult. "But I say to you, love your enemies, and pray for those who persecute you." (Matthew 5:44) Loving one's enemy includes forgiving them! Our Lord asks this behavior of his followers because God our Father "makes his sun rise on the bad and the good, and causes rain to fall on the just and the unjust." (Matthew 5:45)

Jesus expects us to love our family, our friends. He notes that even sinners and pagans have such love. Christ wants much more of us. "So be perfect just as your heavenly Father is perfect." (Matthew 5:48) Our Lord here is presenting the ideal for all. However, he understands better than anyone that Christians fail at times. His blessing us with the sacrament of penance is a wonderful gift, something we all need. I believe that to love and forgive our enemies we must see it as a process, strengthened by one's daily prayers.

~ Fr. Ralph

## ANNUAL PANCAKE SUPPER

**Tuesday, February 28, 2017**

**5:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.**

The Breakfast for Dinner Supper is Tuesday, February 28. The event celebrates Shrove Tuesday which marks the last night before the season of Lent begins. The dinner is breakfast with pancakes, eggs, bacon, sausage, hash browns and too much more breakfast treats too mention.

Breakfast for Dinner begins at 5:00 p.m. and runs to 8:00 p.m.. Adults are \$8, kids 6 - 12 are \$5. Children under 5 eat for free and a family plan is available for \$25. Enjoy a relaxing dinner/ breakfast / meal without having to do any dishes.

If you are interested in flipping pancakes and hanging out in the kitchen, contact Sylvia Jones at 301-762-6564 in the evening to volunteer.

## The Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

### QUESTION OF THE WEEK

*Is there a person or situation in my life through which God is calling me to embrace Jesus' revolutionary invitation to transform the world by love?*

### RCIA

The Rite of Acceptance was celebrated this weekend at the 5:00 Saturday Mass. Our inquirer, Sydnie Brown, declared her intention to continue her journey of faith toward reception and full initiation into the Catholic Church at a future date. At this Rite, Sydnie, who will be baptized, became a catechumen. The St. Francis community, represented by Sydnie's sponsor, will offer its support and witness to Sydnie, as she continues her faith journey. Please keep Sydnie Brown in your prayers.

### A MYSTICAL MEANING . . .

#### **in a poor person's face" (Pope Francis).**

Is God calling you to help the needy through the St. Vincent de Paul Society? The Society at St. Francis parish needs new members. We focus on the needs of the struggling and poor in the Derwood area, and we are sometimes asked to help in nearby areas of Montgomery County as well. Pope Francis tells us that "The universe unfolds in God, who fills it completely. Hence, there is a mystical meaning to be found . . . in a poor person's face" (*Laudato Si*, 233). See what this "mystical meaning" is as you look into the face of the poor with the St. Vincent de Paul Society. Come see if you are called to the ministry of the Society. We meet on the second and fourth Thursdays of the month at 7:00 in the rectory Assisi Room. **Our next meetings is Thursday, February 23.** For more information, call Tony Bosnick at 301-840-1407, Ext 11.

### THE MUSINGS OF THE PASTOR (continued)

*Our desire is not to enter the political arena, but rather to proclaim Christ alive in the world today. In the very moment a family abandons their home under threat of death, Jesus is present. And He says to each of us, "whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me" (MT 25:40).*

Last month Cardinal Wuerl also commented that "Migration is certainly one of the most difficult issues facing our nation today. Socially, and politically, we are struggling to find the balance between our history as a country of immigrants with the reality of so many people who are leaving their homeland because of war or violence or poverty in search of a better life. These types of migration are parts of the larger experience which includes the movement of refugees, victims and survivors of human trafficking and migrant workers."

Our recent Archdiocesan Synod discussed the needs and rights of immigrants and refugees in Service Recommendation 8. We'll talk about that next week.

**Fr. John Dillon**  
**Pastor**

### THE MUSINGS OF THE PASTOR

On January 30, 2017, Cardinal Daniel DiNardo, Archbishop of Galveston-Houston, president of the United States Conference on Catholic Bishops, and Archbishop José Gomez of Los Angeles, vice-president of the United States Conference on Catholic Bishops, issued a joint statement as a result of the executive order on the new refugee policy announced by President Donald Trump on January 27, 2017. I thought that it was important that you see their joint statement as this issue has been hotly discussed in the media. Here is their statement for your prayerful consideration:

*Over the past several days, many brother bishops have spoken out in defense of God's people. We are grateful for their witness. Now, we call upon all the Catholic faithful to join us as we unite our voices with all who speak in defense of human dignity.*

*The bond between Christians and Muslims is founded on the unbreakable strength of charity and justice. The Second Vatican Council in Nostra Aetate [the Declaration on the Relation of the Church with non-Christian religions, which was passed by an overwhelming vote of the assembled bishops and then promulgated by Blessed Pope Paul VI on October 28, 1965] urged us to sincerely work toward a mutual understanding that would "promote together for the benefit of all mankind social justice and moral welfare, as well as peace and freedom." The Church will not waiver in her defense of our sisters and brothers of all faiths who suffer at the hands of merciless persecutors.*

*The refugees fleeing from ISIS and other extremists are sacrificing all they have in the name of peace and freedom. Often, they could be spared if only they surrendered to the violent vision of their tormentors. They stand firm in their faith. Many are families, no different from yours or mine, seeking safety and security for their children. Our nation should welcome them as allies in a common fight against evil. We must screen vigilantly for infiltrators who would do us harm, but we must always be equally vigilant in our welcome of friends.*

*The Lord Jesus fled the tyranny of Herod, was falsely accused and then deserted by his friends. He had nowhere to lay His head (Lk. 9:58). Welcoming the stranger and those in flight is not one option among many in the Christian life. It is the very form of Christianity itself. Our actions must remind people of Jesus. The actions of our government must remind people of basic humanity. Where our brothers and sisters suffer rejection and abandonment we will lift our voice on their behalf. We will welcome them and receive them. They are Jesus and the Church will not turn away from Him.*

**Continued in the column to the left....**

**LAMB OF GOD PRAYER MEETING** Join the Lamb of God Prayer Group for worship and the study of Scripture on Tuesday, February 21, 7:30 p.m., St. Clare's Chapel in the Rectory. For details, please call Louise, (301) 977-5217.

**POOR BOX DONATION** – The donations for next weekend will go to the Prison Ministry Outreach Program. *Thank you for your generosity.*

**ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI PRAYER CHAIN** If you have a prayer request, please contact Marianne Bullen, (301) 963-3420 or [mariannebu@comcast.net](mailto:mariannebu@comcast.net) with your requests.

### ROSARY FOR PRIESTS

Every Wednesday evening at 6:45 p.m. we pray the rosary for our priests before the 7:30 p.m. Mass.

### ROSARY CENACLE OF OUR LADY, QUEEN OF PEACE

Cenacle of Our Lady, Queen of Peace to pray for priests and vocations, 3:00-5:00 p.m. in the St. Clare's Chapel (Rectory) every Sunday. Please join us.

### HOLY HOUR FOR THE DYING

On Thursday evenings in the St. Clare Chapel in the Rectory a prayer group meets at 7:00 p.m. to pray for the dying. This is a Holy Hour Devotion for the Dying. As a central work of our Catholic faith, we are called to pray for the dying, especially for those who may die suddenly, unprepared to face God. For additional information, please call the Parish Office, (301) 840-1407.

### KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS - COUNCIL 2323

The Knights of Columbus are actively pursuing new members. Our council incorporates members from St. Francis, St. Mary's and St. Martin's. Though best known for our many charitable projects, we also have a lot of fun with dinners, fund raisers, family nights and many other fraternal social occasions. If interested in learning more, please contact Gary Palmer, (301) 412-1237 or e-mail [gtdbpalmer@verizon.net](mailto:gtdbpalmer@verizon.net).



**OLD PALMS** – We will be collecting old palms beginning this weekend through Sunday, February 26. Please place your palms in the Palm Collection Box in the Gathering Space.

### THANK YOU

#### FROM ASSUMPTION CATHOLIC CHURCH

Dear St. Francis Parishioners,

*You went overboard with your generosity. Providing Christmas gifts for so many children, that was a lot of work. I spoke with many of the parents after Christmas, they were very pleased with the gifts their children received. Most spoke on how happy the children were - opening a gift and it being exactly what they wanted. St. Francis - you made many families very happy. Thank you for your continuous support of our Pope Francis Outreach Center.*

*~ Father Gregory Shaffer, Pastor  
& Mildred J. Brown,  
Director of the Pope  
Francis Outreach Center*

## BUILD UP OUR CHURCH

### *Sign up Now for the Rediscover Jesus Small Groups*

It's not too late to sign up for one of the Lenten Small Groups that are meeting for the first time this week to discuss Matthew Kelly's inspirational book, *Rediscover Jesus*. Take the time this Lent to meditate on thought-provoking questions by yourself, with your spouse or with your entire family. The small groups will be meeting regularly during Lent in peoples' homes or at church; group members will discuss the previous week's readings and how they apply in their lives.

For more information or to sign up, contact Ministry Social Concerns Coordinator Anthony Bosnick at [abosnick@sfnadw.org](mailto:abosnick@sfnadw.org).

### *New Information Monitor to Be Installed in Coming Weeks*

At St. Francis of Assisi, we recognize that each person has been uniquely entrusted with gifts from the Lord, not to be hoarded selfishly, but to be used wisely and generously in the service of His Kingdom. Each person is asked to reflect upon his or her gifts and blessings and then to return a portion of those gifts as a sacrificial offering to the Lord. The overall objective of our **Build up Our Church** initiative is to provide structures for all our members to make a response to the Lord by sharing generously their gifts of time, talent, and treasure.

Last year, St. Francis of Assisi received an Evangelization Grant from the Archdiocese of Washington. Part of that grant will fund a new Information Monitor that will be hung in the Gathering Space in coming weeks.

So, what will the Information Monitor provide us as a parish? It will offer a mechanism for us to promote key events and activities, which will both inform parishioners of what's happening in our parish and create excitement about the many programs we undertake as a faith community. Through pictures and videos, the Information Monitor will also provide a way for us to experience events and programs we may have missed. The parish Communications Ministry will need your help in submitting high resolution photos and videos to our new Dropbox account so we can keep that content fresh and dynamic.

Active involvement in ministry and faith formation energizes us to grow in our relationship with God. And as energized and passionate parishioners, we will want to live our Parish mission to "live the good news – joyfully sharing God's love with all, being instruments of peace for the poor and vulnerable, and continually building up our diverse church community." We expect that the Information Monitor will help all parishioners know what is going on at St. Francis and will help them get involved in the wide assortment of Service, Worship, Faith Formation, Community Building, Evangelization, and Stewardship ministry opportunities.

## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS/EVENTS

### NO RE CLASSES NEXT WEEK

In observance of the Presidents' Day holiday, there are NO Religious Education classes on Sunday, February 19, Monday, February 20, and Tuesday, February 21.

### CONFIRMATION CANDIDATE SESSION: TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 21

Confirmation candidates will meet on Tuesday, February 21, for Confirmation class from 6:45-8:30 p.m. in the Parish Center.

### CATECHIST MEETING: SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 26

There will be a Catechist Meeting for all RE catechists on Sunday, February 26 from 12:30-2:30 p.m. in Room 6 of the Parish Center. The topic for our meeting will be: Cooperative Learning Strategies for Catechesis. Please join us as we share ideas for enriching our faith formation classes!

### CATECHESIS FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

Our parish offers monthly catechetical sessions specifically designed for children and youth with special needs and their families. Our next session will be held on Sunday, February 26 from 3:30-4:30 p.m. in the St. Clare Room. If you would like to learn more about these sessions, or if you are interested in serving as a catechist or aide for children with special needs, please call Susan Anderson, Director of Religious Education, at 301-258-9193.

### CATECHISTS AND AIDES NEEDED

Additional volunteers are welcome! Please consider whether you can serve as a catechist or classroom aide for our children and young people. We especially need catechists for the 6<sup>th</sup> grade on Monday and Tuesday evenings, from 6:45-8:00 p.m. If you would like to learn more about this important ministry, please contact Susan Anderson, Director of Religious Education, at 301-258-9193.

### SAVE THE DATE FOR VACATION BIBLE CAMP!

St. Francis of Assisi Church invites children from age 4 to those who will complete the 5<sup>th</sup> Grade in June 2017 to join us at Vacation Bible Camp, June 26-30 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. Look for camper registration information, as well as information about volunteer opportunities for adults and teens, later this spring!

### RELIGIOUS EDUCATION SNOW CANCELLATION POLICY

If Montgomery County Public Schools are closed, and if schools are dismissed early, Religious Education classes, including FRED, 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 recorded on the Religious Education Office phone (301-258-9193) and posted on the St. Francis Parish Facebook page ("St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church").

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.

## YOUTH MINISTRY NEWS/EVENTS

### ST. FRANCIS YOUTH MINISTRY

#### Upcoming Events

#### FRED

#### FEBRUARY - High School

19 FRED  
26 FRED  
28 Pancake Supper

#### MARCH - High School

3 First Friday Mass & Adoration  
5 FRED—The Drive of Your Life  
11 Confirmation Retreat  
11/12 Youth Bake Sale  
12 FRED  
16 Service @ Our Lord's Table  
19 FRED  
24-25 Parish Mission  
31-4/1 FRED Food Fast for CRS

#### FRED JR.

#### FEBRUARY - Middle School

27/28 FRED Jr.  
28 Pancake Supper

#### MARCH - Middle School

3 First Friday Mass & Adoration  
11 Confirmation Retreat  
11/12 Youth Bake Sale  
16 Service @ Our Lord's Table  
19 24-25 Parish Mission  
31-4/1 FRED Food Fast for CRS

#### GET SOCIAL

*\*Instagram "SFASusie"*

*\*FRED group on FACEBOOK: friend "Susan FRED Lea"*

*\*\*St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church" page on Facebook*

### CALLING ALL 2017 HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES!

The Catholic Student Center at the University of Maryland is hosting graduating seniors for Mass, lunch and a college campus ministry info session. This is a great opportunity to gain insight on strengthening faith during the next phase of life. We will begin with Mass at 10:00 a.m. on Sunday, April 2nd, followed by lunch and a discussion with campus ministers and college students from 11:00-12:00 Noon.

### MORNING OF REFLECTION

The Mother Teresa Vocation Society (MTVS) of the Archdiocese of Washington is offering a free "Morning of Reflection" on Saturday, February 25, 2017, at St. Peter's Church, located at 2900 Olney-Sandy Spring Rd. Father Pawel Sass, a gifted homilist, will speak on the topic of "Great Polish Saints". All are welcome! You do not need to be a member of MTVS to attend. The day's activities will include light refreshments (9:15-9:45 a.m.), followed by Father's talk (9:45-10:30 a.m.), and ending with Adoration and Confession (10:30-11:30 a.m.). Morning Mass is offered at 8:30 a.m. for those who would like to attend. For more information on how to become a member of MTVS, please visit [www.DCPriest.org](http://www.DCPriest.org) or contact Maris Moriarty at 202-636-9020 or [moriarty@adw.org](mailto:moriarty@adw.org). MTVS prayerfully supports vocations to the priesthood for the Archdiocese of Washington.



**YOUNG ADULTS**  
**Upcoming Events**

**33 Days Event**

St. Francis Young Adults - Deepen your relationship with God by Spending your Lent with Mary. Join in a Young adult small group for an extraordinary 33-day journey to Marian consecration. Meetings are on Wednesday evenings from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. starting on February 22, 2017 @ St Francis of Assisi Parish, Derwood. Cost \$25 Please Register by contacting Susan Lea @ [SFAYouth@sfaw.org](mailto:SFAYouth@sfaw.org) or 301-948-9167.

**COLLECTION FOR THE CHURCH  
IN THE DEVELOPING WORLD**

On the weekend of February 25-26, the second collection will be for the Church in the Developing World, which is directed to the Church in Latin America, the Church in Central and Eastern Europe, and the Church in Africa. The needs are great, while the faithful in these areas are often limited in what they can contribute to support their Churches. Bishops and faithful in all three areas express their gratitude for the help they receive to support basic ministries and services in catechesis, education, liturgy, and providing physical structures for their parishes. This is one way that Catholics in the archdiocese can stand in solidarity with those in need in many parts of the world. Please give generously as you are able.

**BENEFIT DINNER HONORING MEMORY  
OF FR. DONALD P. WORCH**

Father Don was a long-time board member and supporter of Potomac Community Resources, Inc. (PCR), an award-winning non-profit organization that encourages and supports full inclusion of persons with intellectual and development differences into all aspects of community life. PCR's primary funding mechanism is its annual benefit dinner. In honor of his memory and life of service to the community, PCR will award Father Don, posthumously, the Patricia Sullivan Leadership Award, and has designated the "Friends of Father Don" as honorary benefit chairs for this year's dinner, which will be held on April 1, 2017 at the Bethesda North Marriott Hotel. Information on tickets or making donations in Father Don's memory, can be obtained at PCR's website, [www.pcr-inc.org](http://www.pcr-inc.org).

**SURGE IN PRAYER COURSE**

*"For a Surge in Prayer"* a six session course for parishioners, family members and friends beginning March 8, presented by members of the Secular Carmelite Community in Frederick. Encounter Our Risen Lord through the Gospel, the Catechism, Prayer of Recollection, the teachings of St. Teresa of Avila. Will provide a fresh understanding of an active prayer life, create an increased awareness of the necessity for prayer and an increased involvement in the mission of the Parish and the Church.

**Evenings:** Wednesday March 8, 15, Thursday 23, Wednesday 29, April 5, 12 from 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.

**Cost:** \$15, includes complete course materials.

**Location:** Saint Patrick's Catholic Church 4101 Norbeck Rd, Rockville, MD 20853.

To register, contact Melanie Baker, Director of Adult Faith Formation, 301-924-2285 x317

Email: [stpatrickadultfaithformation@gmail.com](mailto:stpatrickadultfaithformation@gmail.com)

**PAX CHRISTI PEACE QUOTE**

*It is certainly a greater and more wonderful work to change the minds of enemies, bringing about a change of soul, than to kill them.*

~ St. John Chrysostom

**MEN ON FIRE RETREAT**

Friday, March. 10, 7:00 p.m.-10:00 p.m. & all day Saturday, March. 11, Mother of God Community, 20501 Goshen Road, Gaithersburg. Join other Catholic men (late teens and older) for a weekend of renewal and empowerment. Like others who have attended this retreat in the past, you will: 1) gain a new vision and sense of purpose for your life; 2) experience more of God's love for you and the power of the Holy Spirit in your life; and 3) learn how to fight for your family and be a light to the world. Retreat includes Saturday morning Mass, speakers, lunch and dinner. Cost is \$25 before February 28, or \$30 after February 28. Register at <https://menonfireretreat.eventbrite.com> or call Tom Singer 240-602-2698.

**Spotlight on St. Jude Regional Catholic School**  
***Catch our Spirit***

[www.StJudeRockville.org](http://www.StJudeRockville.org)

<http://www.facebook.com/stjuderockvillemd>

**Catch Our Spirit! Register Now for Fall 2017!**

Applications for fall enrollment are now being accepted on a first come basis for our Pre-k 3 year old program to our 7th grades. For information on the curriculum, admissions policies and registration, contact Ellen Donnelly in the school office at 301-946-7888 or register your student online at [www.StJudeRockville.org](http://www.StJudeRockville.org).

**GIRLS ON THE RUN**  
**IS BACK FOR THE SPRING SESSION!**

**WHAT:** Girls on the Run is a nationwide, nonprofit after-school program that combines training for a 5K running event with self-esteem enhancing and uplifting workouts.

**WHY:** The goal of **Girls On the Run** is to encourage positive emotional, social, mental and physical development for pre-teen girls.

**WHO:** This program is open to students in grades 3-5. Space is limited to 20 participants per team.

**WHEN:** Lessons will be held on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 3:30 pm to 4:45 pm from March 13th until May 26th.

**COST:** The regular fee for the program is \$160, but financial scholarships are granted based on financial need.

**HOW:** Please visit [www.girlsontherunofmoco.org/register](http://www.girlsontherunofmoco.org/register) to register.

**Upcoming Events:**

February 24 - 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Presidents Presentation

March 8- SJRCS National Junior Honor Society Induction Ceremony

March 9 - Faculty & Parent/ Student Basketball game

March 20 – 24 Book Fair

March 21 6-7:30 Family Reading Night