

# Mass Intentions

## February 27 - March 5

<b>Monday, 2/27</b>	9:00 a.m. Catherine Franck
<b>Tuesday, 2/28</b>	9:00 a.m. Joe Perkins
<b>Wednesday, 3/1</b>	9:00 a.m. <i>Pro populo</i>
<b>Ash Wednesday</b>	12:000 p.m. Paul Lea
	6:00 p.m. Catalina Ramos
	7:30 p.m. Alfredo So
<b>Thursday, 3/2</b>	9:00 a.m. Joan Shephardson
<b>Friday, 3/3</b>	9:00 a.m. Barbara Lynn Beall
	7:30 p.m. Alonzo Watkins
<b>Saturday, 3/4</b>	9:00 a.m. Walter McCarthy
	5:00 p.m. Mary Jane Kelley
<b>Sunday, 3/5</b>	8:00 a.m. Patrick Bussard
	9:30 a.m. Agnes Angelova
	11:15 a.m. Helen Radday
	1:00 p.m. <i>Pro populo</i>
	5:00 p.m. Paul Lea

**Please pray for the sick....**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 26, 2017

<b>Sunday:</b>	Is 49:14-15/Ps 62:2-3, 6-9/1 Cor 4:1-5/ Mt 6:24-34
<b>Monday:</b>	Sir 17:20-24/Ps 32:1-2, 5-7/Mk 10:17-27
<b>Tuesday:</b>	Sir 35:1-12/Ps 50:5-8, 14, 23/Mk 10:28-31
<b>Wednesday:</b>	Jl 2:12-18/Ps 51:3-6, 12-14, 17/2 Cor 5:20--6:2/Mt 6:1-6, 16-18
<b>Thursday:</b>	Dt 30:15-20/Ps 1:1-4, 6/Lk 9:22-25
<b>Friday:</b>	Is 58:1-9/Ps 51:3-6, 18-19/Mt 9:14-15
<b>Saturday:</b>	Is 58:9-14/Ps 86:1-6/Lk 5:27-32
<b>Next Sunday:</b>	Gn 2:7-9; 3:1-7/Ps 51:3-6, 12-13, 17/ Rom 5:12-19 /Mt 4:1-11

## Scripture Corner

### TRUST GOD

The special teaching of today's Gospel (Matthew 6:24-34) is the necessity for all to trust God. In today's first reading (Isaiah 49:14-15) the prophet Isaiah gives a wonderful tribute to mothers. They are presented as having the loving care for their children that God has for all persons. "But Zion said, 'The Lord has forsaken me; my Lord has forgotten me.' Can a mother forget her infant, be without tenderness for the child of her womb?" (Isaiah 49:15) The Responsorial Psalm also encourages trust in God. "Trust God at all times, my people! Pour out your hearts to God our refuge". (Psalm 62:9)

Jesus tells us today that we should "seek first the kingdom [of God] and his righteousness." (Matthew 6:33) Children of God should not be preoccupied with food and clothing. Our Lord holds up the example of the beauty of the birds and wild flowers. Christ teaches that not even Solomon in all his glory could match the beauty of wild flowers. Here is an Old Testament description of that glory of Solomon. "The king made a large ivory throne, and overlaid it with fine gold... The throne had six steps; a footstool of gold was fastened to the throne, and there was an arm on each side of the seat, with two lions standing next to the arms, and twelve other lions standing there on the steps, two to a step. Nothing like this was made in any other kingdom." (2 Chronicles 9:17-19)

Christ wants his followers to recall that all that splendor of Solomon did not compare with the beauty of the wild flowers! All God's children should, therefore, turn to their Father with great faith and trust. The God who gives such great care to the birds and to wild flowers, "will he not much more provide for you?" (Matthew 6:30)

Jesus realizes that we need food and clothing. He wants us to trust in God who "knows that you need them all." (Matthew 6:32). We truly pursue the kingdom of God and its righteousness by following the example and teaching of our Lord.

~ Fr. Ralph

## ANNUAL PANCAKE SUPPER

**Tuesday, February 28, 2017**

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

The Breakfast for Dinner Super Pancake Extravaganza 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.

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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 Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time

### ASH WEDNESDAY

#### Mass Schedule – March 1

9:00 a.m. 12:00 Noon 6:00 p.m. 7:30 p.m.

#### LENTEN SCHEDULE

**Daily Mass:** Mon thru Sat 9:00 a.m.  
Wed 7:30 p.m.  
Our Lady of Perpetual Help Novena follows  
Wednesday Evening Mass

**Lenten Evening Prayer** Friday Evenings 6:40 p.m.  
**Stations of the Cross** Friday Evenings 7:00 p.m.

**Confession:** In addition to Saturday afternoon, Confessions will be heard each Wednesday evening during Lent before Mass 6:00–7:30 p.m. **(The Light is ON for you.)**

#### LENTEN REGULATIONS

**Fasting:** Ages 18-59 fast on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday, limiting themselves to one full meal.

**Abstinence:** Catholics age 14 and older abstain from meat on Ash Wednesday, Good Friday and all the Fridays of Lent.

**RCIA:** The Rite of Sending will take place at the 5:00 Mass next Saturday. This is a preparation rite for the next day, when the candidates and catechumens will participate in the Rite of Election and Call to Continuing Conversion at 3:00 at the Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, D.C. This rite gives the St. Francis Community the opportunity to express its approval of the catechumens and candidates and to send them forth to the celebration of election, assured of the parish's care and support. The catechumens will sign the Book of the Elect that will be presented to the Archbishop at the Rite of Election.

#### THE MUSINGS OF THE PASTOR (continued)

*As Christians, we begin by examining scripture to see what the Lord teaches. Jesus says that we should welcome the stranger with compassion, kindness, understanding, peace and love—just as he did in his own time. While the sheer numbers of migrants on the move around the globe, with some finding their way to our own community, may seem to be overwhelming, as Christians it is vital that we see the humanity in the faces of immigrants that stand behind the statistics and policy responses.*

Last month during National Migration Week we gathered as an archdiocese for prayer and advocacy in a series of public events to show our shared commitment to accompanying our migrant and refugee sisters and brothers living in our communities. But this should not be confined to just one week in the year. Our assistance to the recently arrived family from Daara, Syria, will be an opportunity to encounter migrants as persons as we help them to adjust in American society and hopefully to grow and prosper here in our land of opportunity. Until next week,

**Fr. John Dillon**  
Pastor

#### THE MUSINGS OF THE PASTOR

The *Catholic Standard* recently carried an article about how St. Francis of Assisi Parish is working to sponsor a family from Daara, Syria as part of Montgomery County Interfaith Refugee Resettlement Neighbors, which consists of about twenty mosques, synagogues, and churches in Montgomery County. The Islamic Center of Maryland and Temple Beth Ami are also sponsoring this family. Mary Kate Ryner, a member of our Pax Christi group told the reporter at the *Catholic Standard* that the family is in need of assistance with scheduling and attending doctors' appointments after three years of living in a refugee camp with poor sanitation, no medical care, and a shortage of water. A nurse who is a member of this parish agreed to accompany them to appointments, since the language barrier makes it difficult to communicate with the doctors. While we are helping the family meet basic needs, our goal is to make sure that the family can become independent.

I first met the Religious of Jesus and Mary when I was the Pastor of St. Mark the Evangelist Parish, Hyattsville and was struck with their great desire to imitate the example of their foundress, St. Claudine Thevenet. St. Claudine was moved to compassion and action by the great suffering she saw all around her. The Religious of Jesus and Mary (RJMs) founded St. Mark's School when the parish was established in 1958 and have maintained a presence in the parish even after the school had closed. I am delighted that Sisters Rosemary Mangan and Janet Stolba, both Religious of Jesus and Mary, are assisting our parish in working with the refugee family. This is particularly important to the RJMs because several of their Sisters are currently working in Syria. The RJMs had been working in a school in Aleppo and are now based in Damascus, Syria.

Our working with this family and with the Montgomery County Interfaith Refugee Resettlement Neighbors is a concrete way in which we can put into practice a recommendation of our recently completed first Archdiocesan Synod that "the needs and rights of immigrants and refugees be advocated for at the local, state, and federal levels, and that Catholics be educated about the needs and rights of immigrants so that they may be advocated for" (Service Recommendation 8).

Cardinal Wuerl explains why we as Catholics should be concerned about the situation of migrants in a recent blog post:

*The plight of migrants and the response of local communities and the nations is something that the Catholic Church is concerned about because it involves people and our efforts toward the common good—in this case, the fundamental right to pursue liberty and justice. In the face of this kind of challenge, the principles of Catholic Social Teaching can help inform people's thinking and shed light on what is best concerning the mass movement of peoples.*

In the same blog post Cardinal Wuerl reviews what our Lord told us about how we should welcome the stranger in our midst:

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

**February 26, 2017**

**LAMB OF GOD PRAYER MEETING** Join the Lamb of God Prayer Group for worship and the study of Scripture on Tuesday, February 28, 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 Gaithersburg Help. *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 [gtbpalmer@verizon.net](mailto:gtbpalmer@verizon.net).

### **ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT**

All are welcome! Join the Ministry of Eucharistic Adoration and assist with adoration in the following manner:

- *Become a regular attendee at adoration in the Parish.*
- *Pray that Eucharistic Adoration will increase.*
- *Foster Eucharistic Adoration in our parish by evangelizing His Eucharistic Presence.*
- *Deepen your personal relationship with Jesus in the Most Blessed Sacrament.*

**First Friday Mass will be at 7:30 p.m., March 3,** followed by adoration until 9:00 p.m. in the Church..

### **STEWARDSHIP REPORT**

**Figures were not available at the time of publication.**  
*Thank you for your continued support!*

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

### ***BUILD UP OUR CHURCH***

#### ***Last Chance to Sign Up for the Rediscover Jesus Small Groups!***

It's not too late to sign up for the *Rediscover Jesus* Small Groups that started last week! The discussion groups are reflecting on Matthew Kelly's book, *Rediscover Jesus*, with participants asked to read several chapters of the thought-provoking book and then discuss them within their Small Group on the appointed meeting day. Meetings are 90 minutes long and held either at the church or in people's homes to ensure a comfortable environment for sharing.

There are still openings for the small groups meeting on Sunday, Monday, Tuesday and Thursday evenings at 7:30 p.m. and at Thursday and Saturday mornings at 9:45 a.m. If you are interested in participating in one of the *Rediscover Jesus* Small Groups, please contact Social Concerns Ministry Coordinator Tony Bosnick at [abosnick@sfadw.org](mailto:abosnick@sfadw.org).

#### ***Communications Ministry Still Seeking Parishioner Photos for SFA Web Site, Information Monitor***

Amateur and professional photographers, we still need you! The St. Francis Communications Ministry is seeking parishioners' high quality, high resolution photos of church activities and events to use on the St. Francis web site, which is currently being redesigned, and the impending Information Monitor in the Gathering Space. Currently, church staff is working to develop a photo release for use.

If you have any high quality photos you'd like to share, please e-mail Communications Ministry Coordinator Melissa Egan at [Melissa.egan74@verizon.net](mailto:Melissa.egan74@verizon.net), so you can be invited to access the church Dropbox account. The name of the St. Francis account is SFADerwood Media.

### **LENTEN FISH FRY KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS COUNCIL 2323 Father Cuddy Hall 17001 Overhill Road Derwood MD 20855 Friday, March 3, 2017 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.**

**Menu:** Fried fish, homemade Mac & Cheese, coleslaw & dessert (Includes soda, coffee, beer & wine with ID)

**Cost:** \$8/person \$5/child (6 & under)

For additional information please contact George Silvas (301) 977-4097 or [gsilvas@comcast.net](mailto:gsilvas@comcast.net).



**MARCH 2017 LUNCH** – The St. Francis Lunch Bunch will meet on Wednesday, March 1, 12:00 Noon, at China Jade, 16805 Crabbs Branch Way (near the Giant Food Store), Rockville, (301) 963-1570. If you are planning to attend, please contact Mary Lou Habib, (301) 417-0243 and she will reserve a seat for you and answer any questions.

## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS/EVENTS

### CATECHIST MEETING: SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 26

There will be a Catechist Meeting for all RE catechists today, 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 is today, 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 pm. 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.

### PAX CHRISTI PEACE QUOTE

*Instead of hating the people you think are war-makers, hate the appetites and disorder in your own soul, which are the causes of war. If you love peace, then hate injustice, hate tyranny, hate greed – but hate these things in yourself, not in another.*

~ Thomas Merton

## YOUTH MINISTRY NEWS/EVENTS

### ST. FRANCIS YOUTH MINISTRY

#### Upcoming Events

#### FRED

#### FEBRUARY - High School

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.



### ENCOUNTER LENT

Join our faith community - and nearly 14,000 Catholic communities across the United States—in a life-changing Lenten journey of encounter with CRS Rice Bowl. Pick up your family's CRS Rice Bowl from Religious Education Classes or the Church Gathering Space this week, and don't forget to download the CRS Rice Bowl app! May these 40 days better prepare us to encounter ourselves, our neighbors and our God.

### QUESTION OF THE WEEK

*What practical commitment - to which charity or person - can I make before Lent begins this Wednesday so that my prayer, fasting and almsgiving will reflect Jesus' radical call to trust?*

### LENTEN CHALLENGE

#### **FAST. PRAY. GIVE UP YOUR ENVELOPES.**

Christians are called to renew our spiritual practices like *fasting, praying and almsgiving*. As almsgiving encourages us to express gratitude for all that God has given us by giving some away, you can embrace a new practice that will provide our church with consistent support and also simplifies your giving. An added benefit is our parish will save money by eliminating the wasteful envelopes that go unused by so many.

This Lent, we are encouraged to think about our lives and ourselves in new ways. Some parishioners have shared with me that the only check they write anymore is to Saint Francis of Assisi. Please consider giving up your envelopes by embracing eGiving. Sign up is simple: Visit [www.faithdirect.net](http://www.faithdirect.net). Our Parish Number is MD110.

As I pray for you every day, I ask you to give my Lenten challenge prayerful consideration.

***Fast. Pray. Give up your Envelopes!***

May God bless you and your loved ones abundantly during this Lenten season.

***In His name,  
Fr. John Dillon  
Pastor***

### HEALING MASS OFFERS THE ANOINTING OF THE SICK SATURDAY, MARCH 11, 2017

**9:00 A.M. MASS St. Francis of Assisi Church**

The church believes in the life-giving and healing presence of Christ especially in the sacraments. The sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick is an opportunity to receive grace and absolution of sins. It is fitting for the elderly or those facing a serious illness or surgery to receive this sacrament. Persons may receive this sacrament more than once. If you aren't sure if it would be appropriate for you or your loved one to be anointed consult with Father John or our SFA deacons.

### JOURNEY TO EASTER

Join the friars at the Franciscan Monastery of the Holy Land for Journey to Easter, evening prayer and faith sharing that focuses on the Sunday Gospels, Wednesdays during Lent, 7:30 p.m., at the monastery, 1400 Quincy St. NE, Washington, DC 20017. Free parking. Metro: Red Line to Brookland/CUA and H6 bus. Information: 202-526-6800 x374. Visit [myfranciscan.org](http://myfranciscan.org) for this and more events.

### 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.

### 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)

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

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

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

### March Madness

It's time again for the annual 8th grade vs. Faculty and Parents basketball game. Game is set for Thursday, March 9 at St. Patrick's Catholic School. Doors open at 6:00 pm. All are invited!

### The Fourth Annual Elementary School Principals' Association Job Fair

Teachers, teaching assistants, counselors, office staff, nurses, bring your resumes and join us on Saturday March 4<sup>th</sup> from 9:00a.m. – 12:00 p.m. at the Academy of the Holy Cross. Representatives from elementary schools across the Archdiocese of Washington will be present to discuss openings in their schools and to accept resumes. The Academy of the Holy Cross is located at 4920 Strathmore Avenue, Kensington, MD adjacent to the Grosvenor Metro station. Please contact Patricia McGann at [301-654-5376](tel:301-654-5376) with questions.