

# Mass Intentions

## January 16 - January 22

<b>Monday, 1/16</b>	9:00 a.m. Mavis Diego
<b>Tuesday, 1/17</b>	9:00 a.m. Marge Zack
<b>Wednesday, 1/18</b>	9:00 a.m. Cesar Carpio 7:30 p.m. Bill Didier (L)
<b>Thursday, 1/19</b>	9:00 a.m. Judith A. Burns
<b>Friday, 1/20</b>	9:00 a.m. Marge Zack
<b>Saturday, 1/21</b>	9:00 a.m. Gary & Marie Bodner (L) 5:00 p.m. Zenaída Nabor
<b>Sunday, 1/22</b>	8:00 a.m. Mary Jeanette Shope 9:30 a.m. Catherine Bullen (L) 11:15 a.m. Donald Phillips 1:00 p.m. <i>Pro populo</i> 5:00 p.m. Paul Lea

**Please pray for the sick....**Carla Cosman, Yildiz Agnello, Colleen Enos, Carolyn Maltz, 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 January 15, 2017

<b>Sunday:</b>	Is 49:3, 5-6/Ps 40/1 Cor 1:1-3/Jn 1:29-34
<b>Monday:</b>	Heb 5:1-10/Ps 110/Mk 2:18-22
<b>Tuesday:</b>	Heb 6:10-20/Ps 111/Mk 2:23-28
<b>Wednesday:</b>	Heb 7:1-3, 15-17/Ps 110/Mk 3:1-6
<b>Thursday:</b>	Heb 7:25--8:6/Ps 40/Mk 3:7-12
<b>Friday:</b>	Heb 8:6-13/Ps 85/Mk 3:13-19
<b>Saturday:</b>	Heb 9:2-3, 11-14/Ps 47/Mk 3:20-21
<b>Next Sunday:</b>	Is 8:23--9:3/Ps 27/1 Cor 1:10-13, 17/ Mt 4:12-23

## Scripture Corner

### THE LAMB OF GOD

In today's Gospel (John 1:29-34) John the Baptist identifies Jesus as "the Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world." (John 1:29) That title of our Lord is important to his followers. It is used at least prominently in every Mass. "Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us/ grant us pardon." As the priest elevates the Host, he says, "Behold the Lamb of God, behold him who takes away the sins of the world. Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb."

There are three significant references to the Lamb of God in the Sacred Scriptures. The book of Revelation and Jewish tradition speak of a triumphant Lamb who will destroy all evil at the end of time. "They will fight with the Lamb, but the Lamb will conquer them, for he is the lord of lords and king of kings." (Revelation 17:14)

A second possibility is the paschal lamb of the Old Testament. "But for you the blood [of the Lamb] will mark the houses where you are. Seeing the blood, I will pass over you." (Exodus 12:13) The early church identifies Jesus as the Paschal Lamb of the New Covenant. "For our paschal lamb, Christ, has been sacrificed." (1 Corinthians 5:7) As the blood of the paschal lamb saved the Israelites from destruction, the blood of Christ, our Paschal Lamb, has saved us from our sins.

The image of the lamb is also in the final hymn of the Suffering Servant. (Isaiah 52:13-53:12) "Like a lamb led to the slaughter or a sheep silent before shearers, he did not open his mouth." (Isaiah 53:7) This fourth song of the Suffering Servant has more quotations in the New Testament than any other Old Testament passage. Christ himself used the theme of the Suffering Servant. "For the Son of Man did not come to be served but to serve and to give his life as a ransom for many [ALL]." (Mark 10:45) Our Lord wants his followers to be servants, reaching out especially to the poor, the needy.

Today's first reading (Isaiah 49:3.5-6) is the second of the four hymns of the Suffering Servant. God promises that the Servant will be "a light to the nations, that my salvation may reach to the ends of the earth." (Isaiah 49:6)

~ Fr. Ralph

**PARISH OFFICES WILL BE CLOSED,  
MONDAY, JANUARY 16  
IN OBSERVANCE OF THE  
MARTIN LUTHER KING HOLIDAY**

## **The Second Sunday in Ordinary Time**

### **QUESTION OF THE WEEK**

*To whom and how am I being called to be the servant of God's "raising and restoring" Jesus?*

### **RESPECT FOR LIFE MINISTRY SPIRITUAL ADOPTION PROGRAM**

#### **Month No. 9 - Happy Birthday Spiritually Adopted Baby**

Your spiritually adopted baby was born this month - nine months after his/her mother conceived. Your baby is truly a miracle-developing over the past 9 months into one unique human being. Never before, in history, nor ever again, will anyone exist who is just like your spiritually adopted baby. Your prayers saved this baby's life. Thank you on behalf of all of the little babies for whom you cared enough to pray. Please continue to pray for all babies who are at risk for abortion, remembering the prayer of Bishop Fulton J. Sheen who inspired the Spiritual Adoption Program. **"Jesus, Mary, and Joseph, I love you very much. I beg you to spare the life of the unborn baby who is in danger of abortion". PLEASE SEE THE POSTER IN THE GATHERING SPACE. Our baby shower will take place on January 22, 2017. Items were listed in last week's bulletin flyer. Additional copies of the flyer can be found on the Social Concerns Table or you can call the Parish Office for items needed.**

### **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED TO HELP PROVIDE MEALS FOR THE SOPHIA HOUSE SHELTER**

Sophia House is a community based women's shelter in Montgomery County under Interfaith Works. The shelter is a congregation and community-supported program of rehabilitative services for the homeless. Because the shelter does not have a cooking kitchen, we prepare a meal for them on the 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of each month. Three ladies each prepare a meal for 14 and bring it to the coordinator's house and then it's taken to the shelter where the meal is served to the ladies. We also provide breakfast items for the shelter. Each volunteer is usually called upon every 3 months or so. If you are interested in serving in this ministry please email Pat Badolato at [pattibad@verizon.net](mailto:pattibad@verizon.net) or telephone her at 301-963-9196.

### **UPDATE ON ANNULMENTS IN THE CATHOLIC CHURCH**

Do you have questions about annulments or declarations of nullity? Have you heard about recent changes to the nullity process in the Catholic Church and want some information about them? If so, you are invited to hear a presentation by Fr. Juan Esposito, J.D., J.C.D., Judicial Vicar of the Archdiocese of Washington. The title of Fr. Esposito's presentation is "The Newly Revised Marriage Nullity Process: Questions and Answers." He will give the presentation on Tuesday, January 24, 2017 at 7:00 p.m. in the Assisi Room. All are welcome to attend.

### **THE MUSINGS OF THE PASTOR**

This week I am continuing a series of columns in which I highlight several international associations of the faithful of Pontifical Right that are present in this parish. Today I feature Couples for Christ (CFC). Once again I am making use of information available on the website for the Pontifical Council for the Laity listing and describing approved Associations of the Faithful. I have changed spelling to reflect American usage. The Couples for Christ Association was established in Manila in 1981 by sixteen married couples belonging to a Charismatic Renewal prayer group. CFC works for Christian couples wishing to deepen their faith by helping one another to revive their relationship with our Lord and to allow themselves to be renewed by the power of the Holy Spirit. Within a few years, the association was recognized by the Philippines Bishops' Conference, and its new approach to evangelization spread in the parishes as a program for the renewal of family life. On March 11, 2000 the Pontifical Council for the Laity decreed recognition of CFC as an international association of the faithful.

#### **IDENTITY**

CFC is made up of families who have taken up Christ's exhortation to be leaven and light in the world, and to spread the Good News of the liberation of humanity. Through their commitment to the Church's evangelizing work, promoting peace and justice, defending the poor and oppressed, and promoting the unity of Christians, they cooperate with the work of the Holy Spirit who gives life to a new humanity. Membership of CFC entails acceptance of the Christian Life Program, a program of instruction designed to impart to all the members of the association the essentials of the faith, helping them to discover the sense of their vocation to marriage and to renew their faithfulness to God every day, to their vows that bind them as husband and wife, and to their commitment to support one another. CFC pursues its objectives through family pastoral programs aimed at making the family a "domestic church," and through pastoral programs attentive to the poor.

#### **ORGANIZATION**

CFC is governed by an International Council, with its headquarters in Manila, under which there are National Councils. Under the National Council there can be Regional Councils, and under these sectors, and under these chapters, which are the grass roots units of CFC. Non-Catholic Christians can also become aggregate members of the association.

#### **MEMBERSHIP**

CFC has some 700,000 members across all ministries (Singles for Christ, Youth for Christ, Kids for Christ, Handmaids of the Lord, and Servants of the Lord, and is present in 127 countries as follows: Africa and Middle East (30), Asia (37), Europe (20), North America (2), Oceania (17), South America and Caribbean (21).

In our parish CFC conducts the Christian Life Program (CLP) mentioned above. For more information about the CLP, please contact the coordinators for it: Ed Deausen, (240) 506-3803, [eddeausen@gmail.com](mailto:eddeausen@gmail.com) and Marianne Deausen, (240) 506-3874, [deausenmr@gmail.com](mailto:deausenmr@gmail.com).

Until next week,  
**Fr. John Dillon**  
**Pastor**

**January 15, 2017**

**LAMB OF GOD PRAYER MEETING** Join the Lamb of God Prayer Group for worship and the study of Scripture on Tuesday, January 17, 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).

### **JOIN MONTGOMERY COUNCIL 2323 FOR DINNER**

*Spaghetti and meatballs!* No better way to enjoy food and fellowship than with family and friends. On Sunday, January 29, the Knights of Columbus' chefs will be serving a fresh garden salad, Spaghetti & Meatballs, garlic bread, wine, beer and soft drinks. Dinner will be served from 3:00 to 7:00 p.m. at the Father Cuddy Hall, 17001 Overhill Road in Derwood. Tickets are available after all Masses today at \$10 for adults (ages 14 & above); \$7 for children (ages 7 to 13); free for children 6 & under; or, \$35 for a family; or by contacting Mike Thomas in advance at (301) 330-5970 or [cinnabarmike@verizon.net](mailto:cinnabarmike@verizon.net). *Proceeds will support St. Francis' Medical Mission to Haiti.*



### **MARCH FOR LIFE IN DC**

**Friday, January 27**

Noon Rally at the Washington Monument followed by the March along Constitution Avenue to the Supreme Court on Capitol Hill. Join hundreds of thousands of people from around the nation to pray and witness for life. More info on this can be found by visiting [MarchForLife.org](http://MarchForLife.org).

### **BUS TO ATTEND THE MARCH FOR LIFE**

A bus will be leaving from St. Patrick's Church (Rockville) parking lot, Friday, January 27 at 11:15 a.m. and returning by 5:30 p.m. There are a limited number of seats. Please contact Monica Ludwig, (301) 924-2285, Ext. 315 to reserve a seat. Please leave a message with your name, phone number and how many seats to reserve. Thank you for your participation.

### **REBUILDING TOGETHER STILL NEEDS YOUR HELP!**

We still need volunteers for the April 29 Rebuilding Together Project. Depending on how many volunteers we get determines the size of the property we will be "rebuilding." Please return your forms to the basket on the Social Concerns table, drop it off at the Parish Office or fax it to the Parish Office (301) 258-5080. If you didn't get a copy of the form, additional copies can be found on the Social Concerns Table. *Please sign up today - we need your help!*

### **HONORING THE DIGNITY OF LIFE IN SICKNESS & DEATH SEMINAR**

An initiative of the SFA Health Ministry & Respect Life Ministry Join Fr. Dillon and our expert presenters, Fr. J. Daniel Mindling and Marie Shumar to learn how the Church teachings will enable you and your loved ones to make decisions in all stages of life from birth to death that honor the dignity of life. Light refreshments will be provided.

**DATE:** Saturday, February 11, 2017  
**TIME:** 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 Noon  
**PLACE:** The Knights of Columbus Father Cuddy Hall  
17001 Overhill Road  
Derwood MD 20855

### **COLLECTION FOR CHURCH MISSIONS IN THE UNITED STATES & THE ARCHDIOCESE FOR THE MILITARY SERVICES**

This week we will support our parishioners and their families who serve or have served this nation with distinction as members of the U.S. military. This collection will provide the Gospel, the sacraments and other forms of spiritual support to the men and women of the U.S. Armed Forces wherever they serve and to veterans who are in VA Medical Centers. Please prayerfully consider a generous contribution to this special triennial collection approved by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops in 2012 and last taken in 2013.

## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS/EVENTS

### RE CLASS SCHEDULE REMINDERS

Religious Education classes will not meet this week, Sunday, Monday, and Tuesday, January 15, 16 and 17, in honor of the Martin Luther King Day holiday.

### CONFIRMATION CANDIDATE SESSION: TUESDAY, JANUARY 17

Confirmation candidates will meet on Tuesday, January 17, for Confirmation class from 6:45-8:30 p.m. in the Parish Center.

### FIRST RECONCILIATION

Children of St. Francis of Assisi Parish will be receiving the Sacrament of Reconciliation for the first time this Saturday, January 21 at 10:00 am. Please pray for these children as they prepare for and receive the gift of God's forgiveness in this beautiful Sacrament.

### 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 on Sunday, January 22 from 3:30-4:30 pm 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.

### 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.

### MOTHER OF GOD SCHOOL OPEN HOUSE

Looking for a good Catholic education for your children? Attend the Mother of God School Open House, Sunday, January 29, 1:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m., 20501 Goshen Road, Gaithersburg. We have the largest Catholic Pre-K program (3's & 4's) in the area, with before and after care available year-round. Check out our rigorous academic programs for K-8th grade as well. For more information or to schedule a tour call Alice Garvey, (301) 990-2088, Ext. 11 or e-mail [agarvey@mogschool.com](mailto:agarvey@mogschool.com) or you can visit [www.mogschool.com](http://www.mogschool.com).

## YOUTH MINISTRY NEWS/EVENTS

### ST. FRANCIS YOUTH MINISTRY

#### Upcoming Events **FRED**

#### JANUARY - High School

19 Service @ Our Lord's Table  
21 FRED Snow Day  
22 FRED Winter Kickoff Social  
27 Mass, Rally & March for Life  
29 FRED

#### FEBRUARY - High School

3 First Friday Mass & Adoration  
5 Souperbowl of Caring  
FRED-Super Bowl Party  
11/12 Youth Bake Sale  
12 FRED  
16 Service @ Our Lord's Table  
19 FRED  
26 FRED  
28 Pancake Supper

#### **FRED JR.**

#### JANUARY - Middle School

19 Service @ Our Lord's Table  
27 Mass, Rally & March for Life

#### FEBRUARY - Middle School

3 First Friday Mass & Adoration  
5 Souperbowl of Caring  
FRED-Super Bowl Party  
11/12 Youth Bake Sale  
16 Service @ Our Lord's Table  
27/28 FRED Jr.  
28 Pancake Supper

### GET SOCIAL

*\*Instagram "SFASusie"*

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

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

### St. Jude Regional Catholic School

#### Catch our Spirit

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

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

#### OPEN HOUSE

We would love to share the story of our school with you. Attending a St. Jude Regional Catholic School Open House is a great way to learn about SJRCS and experience our welcoming community first-hand. SJRCS will be hosting an Open House on:

**Wednesday, February 1, 2017, 9:00-11:30 a.m. & 6:00-8:00pm**

Applications for enrollment for the 2017 school year are now being accepted (limited openings in our Pre-k 3 and Kindergarten classes). Visit [www.stjuderockville.org](http://www.stjuderockville.org). Go to Admission, then Apply Online, then Enrollment: [TADS: Online Registration and Enrollment](#).

#### Revised Date: Come to Rocklands Barbeque in Wintergreen Plaza, Rockville

Tuesday January, 24

20% of all dine-in and take-out orders  
between 4:00 and 8:30 pm  
will support the SJRCS 8th grade class

## RETROUVAILLE:

### A LIFELINE FOR MARRIAGES IN TROUBLE

Many marriages may experience four stages: (1) Romance, (2) Disillusionment, (3) Misery, and (4) Awakening. Marriages that end in divorce never make it to the 4th Stage of Awakening. Don't give up without learning about the 4th Stage of Awakening. If your marriage suffers from disillusionment or misery, please contact Retrouvaille (pronounced "retro-vie" with a long "i"). The next Retrouvaille weekend is January 27-29, 2017. Please visit [www.HelpOurMarriage.com](http://www.HelpOurMarriage.com), call 443-400-7017, or email [3015@Retrouvaille.org](mailto:3015@Retrouvaille.org) to obtain more information. All calls and inquiries are confidential.

### MEN'S DISCERNMENT RETREAT

From Friday, February 3 through Sunday, February 5, men in their 20s, 30s or 40s who are considering a call to the priesthood are invited to attend a discernment retreat at Saint John Paul II Seminary in Washington, DC (145 Taylor St., NE) led by priests of the Archdiocese of Washington. The weekend will offer time away from your daily routine and will provide an opportunity for prayer and reflection to examine God's call. There is no fee to attend. Registration is now open at [www.dcpriest.org](http://www.dcpriest.org), or email [vocations@adw.org](mailto:vocations@adw.org) for more information.

### GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP

Have you lost a parent, child, spouse, or close friend and think you might benefit from group support as you grieve? St. Patrick's will offer a grief support group in February. The group will be small in size and will provide a safe, compassionate, and prayerful environment for you to discuss your loss with others who share your experiences. The group will meet for 7 weekly sessions starting Thursday, February 9, 2017, from 10:00 – 11:30 a.m. in the Parish Center. There is no fee, but registration is required. For more information and to register, please call Diane Salem at 301-924-4958.

### ROCKVILLE CATHOLIC SUMMER PROGRAM

**June 19 - August 4**

Looking for a fun and faith-filled summer camp experience? Then sign up for the Rockville Catholic Summer Program, a Catholic summer camp for ages 4-14, located at St. Patrick Catholic Church on Norbeck Road. Sports, technology, drama, art, baking and more all in a Christ-centered, positive environment run by youth ministers, Mike and Annie McHugh and a phenomenal college and high school age staff! Our rates are the lowest in the area with before care and after care available. Visit [www.rockvillecatholicsummer.com](http://www.rockvillecatholicsummer.com) for more details and to register!

### CATHOLICS IN ANNAPOLIS WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 2017 3:00 - 8:00P.M.

Mark our calendar for the 33rd Annual "Catholics in Annapolis." Meet your legislators and build a positive relationship with them by sharing the great work and the Good News of the Church in Maryland lived out through the works of our ministries, charities, hospitals, schools, parishes and communities. How? Mingle with like-minded Catholics at Catholics in Annapolis! Save the date now and watch for further information.

## MEN'S RETREAT

*Where the Spirit of the Lord is there is freedom 2 Cor. 3:17*

February 10-12, 2017  
Priestfield Pastoral Center  
4030 Middleway Pike  
Kearneysville WV 25430

Discover a courageous spiritual life. Talks, Mass, Adoration, Confession. Cost is \$225 and includes accommodations and meals. Retreat leaders are Fr. Dave Wells, St. John Neumann Parish and Fr. Rick Kramer, ADW Family Life Office. To register visit [ADWMENRETREAT.EVENTBRITE.COM](http://ADWMENRETREAT.EVENTBRITE.COM).

### MARYLAND AGAINST PHYSICIAN ASSISTED SUICIDE. LEARN MORE

Assisted suicide will likely be a hot item of discussion in the 2017 session of the Maryland General Assembly. Besides being contrary to the Catholic understanding of the dignity of human life, a central principle of Catholic moral and social teaching, it is filled with dangers which are being minimized by those supporting it. For example, lethal doses of chloral hydrate mixture (one of the drug options) are too caustic for many people and cause great physical distress for the patient, volunteers administering the drugs, and family members. Read more by searching "Maryland Against Physician Assisted Suicide" and reading "The Ugly Cost of Physician-Assisted Suicide."

### THE WAY THAT WILL LEAD YOU TO GOD

#### A day of prayer for Catholic Young Women (ages 18-35)

Saturday, February 4, 2017, 9:30 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.  
Little Sisters of the Poor - Jeanne Jugan Residence  
4200 Harewood Road NE  
Washington DC  
(Brookland Metro Stop)

The day will include Mass, Eucharistic Adoration, conference, prayers and sharing with the Little Sisters. Lunch provided. For more information or to register contact Sister Maria Grace [mmwashington@littlesistersofthepoor.org](mailto:mmwashington@littlesistersofthepoor.org).

*"My daughter, I will never forsake you. My Immaculate Heart will be your refuge and the way that will lead you to God." Our Lady of Fatima*

### ST. MARTIN'S FOOD PANTRY

The Food Pantry Ministry here at St. Francis collects and delivers non-perishable food donations weekly to St. Martin's. There is a large brown bin in the Gathering Space marked "St. Martin's Food Pantry" where donations can be placed. A list of items needed can be found on the top of the bin. **Please note: due to health/safety concerns, the pantry CANNOT distribute dented cans, opened items and food beyond its expiration date.** Help those in our community struggling to feed their families by donating one or two non-perishable items at least once a month. This is not a onetime collection, but rather an ONGOING PROJECT. Thank you so much for your past and continued support.