

Mass Intentions

March 13 - March 20

Monday, 3/13	9:00 a.m. Peter Erskine
Tuesday, 3/14	9:00 a.m. Don Smith
Wednesday, 3/15	9:00 a.m. Reverend Matthew Thompson 7:30 p.m. Wayne Englewood
Thursday, 3/16	9:00 a.m. William O'Connor
Friday, 3/17	9:00 a.m. Nancy Conley
Saturday, 3/18	9:00 a.m. Joseph Mastronardi 5:00 p.m. <i>Pro populo</i>
Sunday, 3/19	8:00 a.m. Maggie Espina 9:30 a.m. Catherine Franck 11:15 a.m. Helen Procopio 1:00 p.m. Matthew Hamblet 5:00 p.m. Roberta Bullen

*Please pray for the sick....*Angelo Massino, Ben Spotts, Jim Sculley, Jackie Roebuck King, Tony Chite, Bob Coyne, Jeni Stepanek, Robert Dax. (Names will remain on this list for four consecutive weeks, but can be repeated by calling the Office.)

+ In Memoriam Aeternam +

In your charity, please pray for the repose of the souls of Deacon Wil Pinder, Jean De Diu Kalangwa, Ashley Freeman, niece of Terry Davis.

Readings for the Week of March 12, 2017

Sunday:	Gn 12:1-4/Ps 33:4-5, 18-20, 22/2 Tm 1:8b-10/ Mt 17:1-9
Monday:	Dn 9:4b-10/Ps 79:8-9, 11, 13/Lk 6:36-38
Tuesday:	Is 1:10, 16-20/Ps 50:8-9, 16b17, 21, 23/ Mt 23:1-12
Wednesday:	Jer 18:18-20/Ps 31:5-6, 14-16/Mt 20:17-28
Thursday:	Jer 17:5-10/Ps 1:1-4, 6/Lk 16:19-31
Friday:	Gn 37:3-4, 12-13, 17b-28a/Ps 105:16-21/ Mt 21:33-43, 45-46
Saturday:	Mi 7:14-15, 18-20/Ps 103:1-4, 9-12/ Lk 15:1-3, 11-32
Next Sunday:	Ex 17:3-7/Ps 95:1-2, 6-9/Rom 5:1-2, 5-8/ Jn 4:5-42

Scripture Corner

TRANSFIGURATION

"He was transfigured before them; his face shone like the sun and his clothes became white as light." (Matthew 17:20) In today's Gospel (Matthew 17:1-9) the evangelist notes that Moses and Elijah were part of this vision. These two Old Testament leaders suggest that Jesus will now be the Law (Moses) and the prophet (Elijah) in the New Covenant. The Father declares, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to him." (Matthew 17:5)

The words of the Father are the same as at the baptism of Christ, but with an important addition, "Listen to him." One is reminded of an interesting text of Deuteronomy. "A prophet like me will the Lord, your God, raise up for you among your own kinsmen; that is the one to whom you shall listen." (Deuteronomy 18:15) Another important insight into the role of our Lord is found in the Letter to the Hebrews, "In times past, God spoke in partial and various ways to our ancestors through the prophets; in these last days, he spoke to us through a son, whom he made heir of all things and through whom he created the universe." (Hebrews 1:1-2)

"After six days Jesus took Peter, James, and John his brother, and led them up a high mountain by themselves." (Matthew 17:1) A mountain is regularly a place of divine revelation in the first Gospel. For instance, the famous Sermon on the Mount begins with these words, "When he saw the crowds, he went up the mountain." (Matthew 5:1) There is also an important text with Moses and a mountain. "The glory of the Lord settled upon Mount Sinai. The cloud covered it for six days, and on the seventh day he called to Moses from the midst of the cloud." (Exodus 24:16)

Today's first reading (Genesis 12:1-4a) highlights the role of Abraham in salvation history. "I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you." (Genesis 12:2) Later in that same book God says, "For my part, here is my covenant with you: you are to become the father of a multitude of nations. No longer will you be called Abram; your name will be Abraham, for I am making you the father of a multitude of nations." (Genesis 17:5)

~ Fr. Ralph

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.

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.

Second Sunday in Lent

QUESTION OF THE WEEK

How is Christ's call to be "transfigured" calling me to "go forth" this Lent from my present (comfortable) values and lifestyle and preferences?



On Wednesday evenings, 6:00 – 7:30 p.m., visit St. Francis and experience the simple generosity of God's love in the Sacrament of Reconciliation. To find Confession times at other parishes and for additional resources visit www.TheLightisON.org.



ARE YOU CELEBRATING A SPECIAL WEDDING ANNIVERSARY THIS YEAR? On Sunday, June 25, at 2:00 p.m. Cardinal Donald Wuerl will preside at the annual Mass honoring married couples celebrating **25, 30, 35, 40, 45, 50** and **50+** years of marriage. The Jubilarian Mass will be held at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception. Personalized scrolls signed by Cardinal Wuerl will be distributed to the couples following the ceremony, or mailed should they be unable to attend. If you are interested in attending or receiving a scroll, please call the Parish Office before **Monday, April 24th**.

LENTEN FOOD DRIVE

Every Lent, parishes across the Archdiocese of Washington collect food to help food insecure families and individuals in our community. Our parish collection for the food drive will take place next weekend. Please note that bags for your donations are being distributed after Mass today. It is requested that only non-perishable food that is not expired or in dented cans be donated. (No clothing or hygiene items, please.) Many in our community face hunger. Our collection will be donated to the St. Martins Food Pantry, in Gaithersburg. Thank you, in advance, for your generous contribution.

**DEACON WIL PINDER
MEMORIAL MASS AT ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI
Saturday, April 1, 2017
1:00 p.m.
All are invited!**

THE MUSINGS OF THE PASTOR

Our parish is beginning a new relationship with a local advocacy group in Montgomery County. Action in Montgomery – AIM – was founded in 1998 by our own Father Ralph in cooperation with clergy from other faiths. From its inception AIM has been a non-partisan, multi-faith, multi-racial organization dedicated to working together to get funding from Montgomery County and the State that benefit all – not just the affluent – in the community. In becoming a partner with AIM St. Francis joins other Catholic parishes – St. Martin's, St. Rose of Lima, Our Lady of Mercy, St. Andrew's, St. Camillus – as well as a plethora of other religious congregations in Montgomery County.

AIM's victories in the course of the last 19 years include All-Day Kindergartens in all MCPS schools – something we now take for granted, taxi reform for Senior Citizens, and passage of the MD DREAM ACT. More recent successes include funding for after school programs for children at Title I schools, increased funding for affordable housing, and the opening of neighborhood recreation centers in Historic African American communities. As a result of AIM advocacy, the management of a low income apartment complex in Silver Spring agreed to pay for mold mitigation and to replace the windows in 1000 apartments.

At my request Marie Barry, Rosemary Hudecheck and Marianne Moore will be the parish's liaisons with AIM. To this end they have met together, with AIM leaders and have attended a county wide 'action' that brought 608 citizens together with county officials.

As a grass roots organization, AIM's agenda is set by the people of the county. This is accomplished through Listening Sessions that take place from March – September in living rooms, schools, churches, and already scheduled meetings. At listening sessions AIM asks questions such as 'what is it that keeps you up at night?' or 'what is it that worries you about our county' or 'what is your hope for the residents of Montgomery County'. The concerns raised at the hundreds of Listening Sessions will become the 2018 agenda AIM presents to the new County Executive and Council to be elected this coming November. St. Francis' AIM committee will be inviting you to such listening sessions in late March – early May.

When Marie Barry and others spoke with Father Ralph about St. Francis' new initiative he said, "I would be very pleased to see my favorite parish, St. Francis of Assisi, become part of the movement by joining Action in Montgomery."

AIM is funded by dues from member organization and donations from individuals and foundations. For more information their website is www.actioninmontgomery.org. If you would like to be part of the parish AIM team, please contact Marie Barry mariebarrydc@aol.com, Rosemary Hudecheck rosemaryhudecheck@yahoo.com or Marianne Moore at Marianne.moore1017@gmail.com.

Until next time,

Fr. John

March 12, 2017

LAMB OF GOD PRAYER MEETING Join the Lamb of God Prayer Group for worship and the study of Scripture on Tuesday, March 14, 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 UMAN (Upper Montgomery Assistance Network). *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 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.

LENTEN FISH FRY KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS COUNCIL 2323

**Father Cuddy Hall
17001 Overhill Road
Derwood MD 20855
Friday, March 24, 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.

BLOOD PRESSURE SCREENING

Please stop by the St. Clare Room after Mass this weekend to have your blood pressure checked. (Saturday, 5:00 p.m., Sunday, 8:00, 9:30, 11:15 a.m. Masses)

BUILD UP OUR CHURCH

Childcare to Be Offered during Lenten Parish Mission on March 24 & 25

If you were interested in attending the Lenten Parish Mission on March 24 and 25, but had dismissed the thought because you need a babysitter, then worry no more. The parish Childcare Ministry, headed by Ministry Coordinator Georgana Finn, will provide childcare for young children during the two-day mission that starts at 7:30 p.m. Friday, March 24, and continues at 9:45 a.m. Saturday, March 25.

Please don't miss Dr. Ralph Martin, president of Renewal Ministries, who has delivered compelling talks in the United States and overseas and received an enthusiastic endorsement from one of the visiting priests right here at St. Francis. Dr. Martin will discuss "Living as a Catholic during Challenging Times"; it's a series that won't disappoint. For more information, contact Social Concerns Ministry Coordinator Tony Bosnick at abosnick@sfiadw.org.

Cast Your Ballot for How a Five-Mass Schedule at St. Francis Might Look

It's now your turn to weigh in on the parish's proposal to reduce the number of Masses at St. Francis to five. At Masses this weekend, parishioners 18 years and older who did not complete the online parish survey on the five-Mass schedule are invited to cast a paper ballot regarding the five-Mass proposal. Links to an online version of the survey were sent out last week to parishioners who had provided an e-mail address. Please only vote once! For more information about the five-Mass proposal, e-mail the Pastoral Council at asktheppc@gmail.com.

Show Your Love for Christ by Volunteering for the Love of One Another Ministries

The Love of One Another umbrella ministry, which focuses on community building, is looking for new volunteers. Some of the activities supported by the various Love of One Another ministries include:

- New Parishioner Welcome Reception – held every other month on Sunday afternoon.
- Parish Picnic – help plan and execute the St. Francis of Assisi Feast Day Parish Picnic in October.
- Information Desk – staff for 15-20 minutes after mass by providing current information for which parishioners would normally contact the parish office.
- Special Events - help with annual events, such as the Parish Appreciation Dance, Montgomery County Fair Food Booth and Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper, as well as other receptions.
- Childcare – provide child supervision during adult faith formation programs, New Parishioner Welcome Reception and other such programs, so that couples with young children can attend.
- Café – serve coffee and donuts after masses on third Sunday of the month to encourage parishioners to get to know one another.
- International Night - support planning and coordinating International Night event, where parishioners share information about their country of origin and enjoy ethnic food.

For more information, contact Deacon Dan Finn at deacon-danfinn@gmail.com.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS/EVENTS

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, March 12 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 6th 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 5th 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!

OUR CALL IN THE ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY. IS THIS YOUR CALL?

Our patron, St. Vincent de Paul, wrote: "Our vocation is to go . . . to set people's hearts on fire, to do what the Son of God did. He came to set the world on fire in order to inflame it with his love." "We must begin by establishing the Kingdom of God in ourselves." We are on a life-long journey learning what this means, especially as we reach out to the needy in the Derwood area. Is this speaks in any way to you, come see if the St. Vincent de Paul Society is where you belong. In March, our meeting dates are **Thursday, March 16 and March 23**, in the Assisi Room at 7:00 p.m. For more information call Tony Bosnick, 301-840-1407, X 11.

FAITH DIRECT

Fast. Pray. Give up your Envelopes! We invite you to help your parish save money by giving up your offertory envelopes this Lent! Enrolling with Faith Direct will provide St. Francis of Assisi with consistent support and simplify your giving without the wasteful envelopes. Join us in giving up envelopes this Lenten season! Visit www.faithdirect.net and use our Church Code: **MD110**. Thank you for your continued support of our parish family! God Bless You! ~ Fr. John.

EVENING MASS AT ST. PETER'S DURING LENT

On *Monday through Thursday evenings*, Saint Peter's Parish celebrates Mass at 7:15 p.m. Saint Peter's is located just one quarter mile east of Georgia Avenue on Olney-Sandy Spring Road (MD Route 108). For further information, call 301-924-3774 or visit their website at www.saintpetersolney.org.

YOUTH MINISTRY NEWS/EVENTS

ST. FRANCIS YOUTH MINISTRY

Upcoming Events

FRED

MARCH - High School

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.

MARCH - Middle School

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*

CAFÉ ASSISI - MARCH 19

We will be having coffee and doughnuts after the 9:30 and 11:15 a.m. Masses next Sunday. If you would like to help serving doughnuts and coffee, please contact Sylvia Jones, (301) 762-6564.

QUO VADIS EXCURSION

Young men in high school are invited to the *Quo Vadis* Excursion on Sunday, April 2. The day will include a hike on the Billy Goat Trail at Great Falls National Park as well as Mass, lunch, Eucharistic Adoration, and a cookout dinner. Bus transportation is available. For information and registration, visit www.dcpriest.org. Have more questions? Contact the Office of Priest Vocations at vocations@adw.org or 202-636-9020



ENCOUNTER NUTRITION

We encounter Evelina in Zambia as she and other mothers in her community learn new ways to provide nutritious meals for their growing children and families. How do we ensure that those who are hungry have not only food but true nourishment? Visit crs-ricebowl.org for more.

Please plan to turn in your CRS Rice Bowl to Religious Education Classes or to the Church Gathering Space no later than **SUNDAY, APRIL 9**.

MONTGOMERY HOSPICE OFFERS BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT

Our bereavement groups are for Montgomery County residents who are grieving the death of a loved one. The groups provide emotional support and encourage the sharing of personal experiences. Practical issues and concerns are discussed. Educational materials are provided.

Pre-Registration required: To register for any of the following groups, please call Bereavement Counselor at (301) 921-4400. Registration is "first-come, first-serve" basis. Groups are limited to 11 persons.

Afternoon Grief Support Group: Thursday, 1:30-3:00 p.m. for anyone grieving the death of a loved one. Kol Shalom Synagogue, 9110 Darnestown Road, Rockville. Begins Thursday, March 16 for six weeks.

Evening Grief Support Group: Wednesday, 6:30-8:00 p.m. for anyone grieving the death of a loved one. Bethesda United Church of Christ, 10010 Fernwood Road, Bethesda. Begins Wednesday, March 15 for six weeks.

Child, Adolescent & Teenage Grief Support Group: Wednesday, 6:00-7:30 p.m. for children (5 years old) through teens who have experienced the death of a parent or sibling. Parent/Guardian group meets at the same time. Montgomery Hospice, 1355 Piccard Drive, Rockville. Begins Wednesday, March 15 for six weeks.

PARENTAL & SPOUSAL BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT GROUP AT ST. ELIZABETH'S

St. Elizabeth Bereavement Ministry will offer an eight week bereavement support group series for adults who have experienced the death of a parent, spouse or significant other. The Spring evening series will meet at St. Elizabeth's church, 917 Montrose Road, Rockville on Wednesday evenings, 7:00-8:30 p.m., April 5 - May 24. There is no fee but registration is required. Space is strictly limited so call early. To register call Deacon Kevin Byrne, (301) 279-5962 or Claudia McAuliffe (301) 881-1457.

CHRISTIAN MEDITATION LENTEN SERIES:

The Christian Meditation Prayer Group of St. Martin of Tours Parish will be conducting a Lenten Series on contemplative prayer during the Thursdays of Lent beginning on March 9th. We meet in St. Martin's School library or a classroom at 8:00 PM. Christian Meditation is rooted in the prayer of Jesus to His Father and of the early desert fathers and mothers. This prayer was rediscovered in our own time by Dom John Main OSB. For further information, go to: www.wccm.org and our own website: <http://www.gaithersburgchristianmeditation.com> or call Rich McKay 301-802-2175 richard.mckay8@gmail.com.

ST. NICHOLAS CATHOLIC CHURCH LENTEN REVIVAL

Celebrating 50 Years of Building a Community of Christians, Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow, Sun., March 12 – Thu., March 16, 7 p.m., 8603 Contee Road, Laurel. Theme: "*Rebuild My Church*" - reviving the faithful; reaching the lost; and making St. Nicholas an intentional community of love. Speakers: Msgr. Ray East, nationally known speaker and evangelist and pastor of St. Teresa of Avila Catholic Church in Southeast Washington, D.C., (Sun., Mon., Tues. and Thu.) and community activist and author Deacon Tim Tilghman, of Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church in Southeast D.C. (Wed.). Preaching, praying and singing, followed by fellowship and refreshments each evening. 301-490-5116.

WALKING TO THE CROSS LENTEN PROGRAM

Meets Saturdays in Lent, March 4-March April 15

9:30am Gathering Space

Walking to the Cross is a 40-day devotional designed for the Season of Lent. It invites you to make *walking, reflecting and prayer* a part of your daily Lenten practice. Group gatherings on Saturday will begin with a psalm and the opportunity to set a "movement goal" for the week such as walking or another reasonable physical challenge for yourself.

Week 1 March 4 hand out *Walking to the Cross* books to each attendee. Review the Daily Scripture, Reflection, Prayer and Journaling aspects of the program for daily individual devotion and practice. Introduce the Weekly Movement Goal.

Weeks 2-6 March 11-April 15 Group share about how their movement goal was met/not met/ successes and roadblocks, etc. Set Movement Goal for upcoming week. **New Comers welcome.** Just as Jesus traveled the long journey to the cross, walking or meeting another intentional challenge can discipline and strengthen us physically and spiritually.

An initiative of the SFA Health Ministry

Encouraging health and wellbeing of body, mind and soul

Spotlight on St. Jude Regional Catholic School

Catch our Spirit

www.StJudeRockville.org

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

SCHOLASTIC BOOK FAIR

Our Scholastic Book Fair is a reading event that brings to school the books kids want to read. It's a wonderful selection of engaging and affordable books for every reading level. Please make plans to visit our Book Fair or order books online. All proceeds go to purchase books for our school library.

Book Fair dates: March 21-23

Shopping hours: 8:00 am to 4:00 pm

Family Reading Night – March 21 from 6:00 – 7:30 pm

Visit our Book Fair homepage at <http://bookfairs.scholastic.com/homepage/stjuderockville>

4th ANNUAL BULLDOG BOLT 5K and FUN RUN

May 13, 2017

REGISTRATION IS OPEN!!!

Start and Finish at St. Jude

On May 13th St. Jude will host our fourth annual Bulldog Bolt 5K and Fun Run. All proceeds from the race will be used to replace aging athletic equipment and enhance the school facility. This wonderful event is a day of fun and fresh air for families, teachers, parishioners and neighbors to come together as they contribute to the education of children.

Register now for early-bird pricing!

5K - \$30 before 3/26, \$35 before 4/13, \$40 onsite

1K Fun Run - \$20 before 3/26, \$25 before 4/13, \$30 onsite

Visit www.stjuderockville.org and select the Bulldog Bolt link for more information and to register online.