ST FRANCIS OF ASSISI, DERWOOD



December 10 - December 16

Monday: 12/109:00 a.m.Poor Souls in PurgatoryTuesday, 12/119:00 a.m.Catherine FranckWednesday, 12/129:00 a.m.Beatrice Gordon (L)7:30 p.m.Ramon Meneses

Thursday, 12/13 9:00 a.m. Robert D. Ruiz **Friday**, 12/14 9:00 a.m. Don Smith

Saturday, 12/15 9:00 a.m. Paul A. Mc Gowan

5:00 p.m. Bob Coyne

Sunday, 12/16 8:00 a.m. Angel Andrada

9:30 a.m. Scrofani Family 11:15 a.m. *Pro populo* 5:00 p.m. Ralph Sememyer

+ In Memoriam Aeternam +

In your charity, please pray for the repose of the souls of Louise Chwastyk, mother of Chuck Chwastyk, Daniel Sullivan, Sr., father of Dan Sullivan.

Please pray for the sick...John McCormick, Terri Krafchik, Edmund Dimalanta, Dennis Parnell, Ed Dudenhoeffer, Jackie Roebuck King, Jeni Stepanek. (Names will remain on this list for four consecutive weeks, but can be repeated by calling the Office.)

Readings for the Week of December 9, 2018

Sunday: Bar 5:1-9/Ps 126:1-2, 2-3, 4-5, 6 [3]/Phil 1:4-6,

8-11/Lk 3:1-6

Monday: Is 35:1-10/Ps 85:9ab and 10, 11-12, 13-14

[Is 35:4f]/Lk 5:17-26

Tuesday: Is 40:1-11/Ps 96:1-2, 3 and 10ac, 11-12, 13

[Is 40:10ab]/Mt 18:12-14

Wednesday: Zec 2:14-17 or Rv 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab/

Jdt 13:18bcde, 19 [15:9d]/Lk 1:26-38

Thursday: Is 41:13-20/Ps 145:1 and 9, 10-11, 12-13ab

[8]/Mt 11:11-15

Friday: Is 48:17-19/Ps 1:1-2, 3, 4 and 6 [Jn 8:12]/

Mt 11:16-19

Saturday: Sir 48:1-4, 9-11/Ps 80:2ac and 3b, 15-16, 18-19

[4]/Mt 17:9a, 10-13

Next Sunday: Zep 3:14-18a/Is 12:2-3, 4, 5-6 [6]/Phil 4:4-7/

Lk 3:10-18

THE MUSINGS OF THE PASTOR

On Sunday, October 14, 2018, Pope Francis canonized Blessed Paul VI, Blessed Oscar Romero, Blessed Vincent Romano, Blessed Francesco Spinelli, Blessed Nazaria March Mesa, and Blessed Katharina Kasper. A few weeks ago I wrote about Saint Paul VI. I want to continue writing about these newly canonized saints. Today I am writing about Vincenzo Romano. I am going to base my remarks about him on the short biography published recently in the English edition of L'Osservatore Romano.

Vincenzo Romano was truly a "priest clothed with righteousness," as Psalm 132 says, a cause of joy for his faithful. It was Paul VI who beatified him on November 17, 1963, between the first and second sessions of the Second Vatican Council. On Sunday [October 14], both were proposed to the Church as Saints during the same Rite.

Fr. Vincenzo, the pastor of Santa Croce in Torre del Greco, Italy, was a country priest, an expression of the territory's best moral and cultural qualities, able in his turn to teach in a Christian way, to evangelize and sanctify the environment in which he lived. He spent his entire life in the town between Vesuvius and the sea, in his paternal home on Via Piscopia, where he was born on June 3, 1751 and which today is a shrine beloved by the locals. He shared the joys and sorrows, hopes and worries of his compatriots. He followed a pastoral itinerary seemingly circumscribed by the small intersection of streets and alleys of his village, but in fact was open to the universal and perennial prerogatives of priestly ministry.

Born into a family of common folk, he lived for the people, seeking the spiritual and material good of the community. Immediately after his priestly ordination in the Cathedral of Naples on June 10, 1775, he began intensive pastoral work, focusing on the ministry of the Word and the Gospel of charity, priorities which inspired his mission.

The young priest opened a school in his own home, offering a free education to local children. He thus instilled in new generations the culture that he had learned from his studies in Naples, but more importantly he set the example of a life given entirely to God.

He dedicated special care to coral fishers, whose work comprised Torre del Greco's largest industry. Coral boats set out to face the dangers of the sea with a solemn blessing and comforting words of the parish priest. In the fishermen's ninemonth absence Fr. Vincenzo took care of their families and saw to their needs.

In one of his many visits to the bedsides of the sick and dying, he contracted typhus, which nearly killed him. In his proverbial generosity, he gave all he had, such that his relatives had to keep watch to make sure that he was not left without bed sheets. Thus his parishioners' affection and esteem for him grew, and today they still say that "every Torrese has the sea in his home and Fr. Vincenzo in his heart." St. Vincenzo Romano died on December 20, 1831.

Until next week,

Fr. John

Second Sunday of Advent

OUESTION OF THE WEEK

Can I properly discern what is of value and then act according to those values?

WELCOME to the Family of Christ!

The following individuals and their families recently joined our St. Francis faith community during the month of November:

Alison Connell
Oasis Alexander Escarra
Troy & Yanex Flores
John Haun
Kevin Mueller
June & Jamie Nicholas
Paschal Nwajah
Michael Quiones

The following children were baptized during the month of November:

Elodie Nguyen Georgana Helen Voukidis

RCIA - The Rite of Acceptance and Welcoming will be celebrated at the 11:15 a.m. Mass today. This is the first of the public rites celebrated during the RCIA process. Today our Inquirers become Catechumens (those to be baptized) or Candidates (already baptized) and move into the Period of the Catechumenate. During this important ritual, the Inquirers will publicly declare their intention to continue their journey toward full initiation in the Catholic Church. Members of the St. Francis community, represented by the sponsors, have a vital role in this journey by offering its support, witness, and prayer to these Candidates and Catechumens. Please pray for our Catechumens, Matt Perisin and Julia-Emma Mutombo and our Candidates, Erick Funte, My-Linh Rouil, Emma Grothe and Clara Grothe.

PLEASE SUBMIT YOUR COMMITMENT CARD FOR THE OFFERTORY STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM, "RESPONDING TO GOD'S CALL TO LOVE AND TO SERVE"

Thank you to the more than 160 parish individuals, couples and families who have submitted a Commitment Card for the offertory stewardship program, "Responding to God's Call to Love and to Serve." Your generosity and response are very much appreciated! If you have not yet sent back your Commitment Card, please do so to be captured in the Summary Report that will reflect all the offertory commitment activity pledged by members of our parish. Let's aim for a 100 percent response, even if you are unable to change your offertory commitment for the coming year. Thank you again for praying over and considering an increased offertory commitment! If you'd like to give your offertory contributions online through Faith Direct, then please sign up by going to www.sfadw.org and click on the 'Give' and 'Online Giving' links. If you already give offertory contributions through Faith Direct, don't forget that you need to update your account to reflect your new offertory commitment. You can make changes anytime by accessing your account online or contacting the Faith Direct customer service team at (866) 507-8757.

PARISH PENANCE SERVICE - DECEMBER 10

Please join us at 7:00 pm Monday, December 10, for the Parish Penance Service to be held in the church. The Parish Penance Service will enable St. Francis parishioners to celebrate the Sacrament of Penance with Fr. John, Fr. Jack or one of several other priests who will also hear confessions. If you would like to enter the season of Advent with a clean heart, them please come to the Parish Penance Service. For more information, contact the Parish Office at (301) 840-1407.

REMINDER - SPIRIT TREE GIFTS

Spirit Tree Gifts are due back in the Gathering Space by 6 pm Sunday, December 9. Thank you for your generosity in helping make Christmas brighter for parishioners and the surrounding community at Assumption Parish in Washington DC!

ALTERNATIVE CHRISTMAS GIFT CARDS

Alternative Christmas Gift Cards will be available in the Gathering Space after all the Masses next weekend. Please bring your checkbook and support your favorite charities. Copies of the Alternative Christmas Gift Catalog can be found on the Social Concerns table in the Gathering Space.

IF YOU'RE NEW TO ST. FRANCIS, COME TO THE NEW PARISHIONER WELCOME RECEPTION

People new to St. Francis of Assisi Church are invited to attend the New Parishioner Welcome Reception at 2:30 pm on Sunday, December 16, in the Rectory. Come enjoy some delicious fingers foods, wine and beverages and meet parish clergy and lay leaders, who will give an overview of the many active parish ministries in the areas of Worship, Community, Social Concerns, Faith Formation and Administration. Free babysitting is provided by the Love One Another Ministry. To RSVP, please contact Fr. John Dillon at jdillon@sfadw.org. For more information, contact the Parish Office at (301) 840-1407.

JOIN THE SPANISH MINISTRY IN PRAYING THE ROSARY ON THE FIRST & THIRD TUESDAYS OF THE MONTH

If you are interested in joining a Spanish-speaking community at St. Francis, then please join the new Spanish Ministry! The ministry prays the Rosary in Spanish at 6:30 pm on the first and third Tuesdays of the month in the church. Native Spanish speakers are welcome, as are people who want to practice their Spanish. For more information, contact Ministry Coordinators Will Garcia, wagarcia@comcast.net or Lourdes Garcia, legarcia@comcast.net.

December 9, 2018

LAMB OF GOD PRAYER MEETING Join the Lamb of God Prayer Group for worship and the study of Scripture on Tuesday, December 11, 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.

HOLY HOUR FOR THE DYING

On Thursday evenings in the St. Clare's 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.

ROSARY CENACLE OF OUR LADY, QUEEN OF PEACE Cenacle of Our Lady, Queen of Peace to pray for priests and vocations, 2:00 p.m. in the St. Clare's Chapel (Rectory) every Sun-

day. Please join us.

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) 948-6494 or e-mail gtdbpalmer@verizon.net.

FRANK RUNYEON PRODUCTION INTERTWINES THE STORIES OF CHRISTMAS TOLD IN ONE COMICAL TALE

Hoping to find a fun Christmas show that will entertain the entire family? Look no further than the Frank Runyeon production, "The 3 ½ Stories of Christmas," that will be staged at 7:00 pm Friday, December 14, in the church. Told from the perspective of a comical angel-in-training, Runyeon shares the stories of the light of Creation, to the manager in Bethlehem, to the origin of St. Nicholas, to the secret of the Christmas angel himself! Children and quite a few adults in the audience will find themselves center stage, as they help tell the Christmas story in ways they never thought possible. A perfect night out for seniors, adults, teens, children, toddlers and everyone in between. The event is free, but donations are welcome. For more information, contact the Parish Office at (301) 840-1407.

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)

SCHEDULE FOR ADVENT/CHRISTMAS 2018

- Through Sunday, December 16: Christmas Tree Sales in the front of church, 3-8 pm Monday through Friday and 9 am-8 pm Saturday and Sunday.
- December 8/9: Second Sunday of Advent. Please sign up to light the Advent Wreath in the church on the remaining Sundays of Advent!
- Sunday, December 9: Spirit Tree gifts due back by 6 pm.
- Monday, December 10: Parish Penance Service at 7 pm in the church.
- Friday, December 14: Frank Runyeon Production, "The 3 ½ Stories of Christmas," 7 pm in the church.
- **December 15/16:** Third Sunday of Advent
- **December 22/23:** Fourth Sunday of Advent
- **Monday, December 24:** Christmas Eve Mass times at 4 pm, 6 pm, 8 pm and 11 pm.
- **Tuesday, December 25:** Christmas Day Masses at 8 am, 9:30 am, and 11:15 am. *No 5 pm Mass on Christmas Day.*
- Sunday, December 30: Feast of the Holy Family.
- Monday, December 31: 5 pm Vigil Mass for January 1.
- **Tuesday, January 1:** Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God, a Holy Day of Obligation. Mass at 9 am and 12 Noon.
- Sunday, Jan. 6: Epiphany Sunday (Three Kings) All God's Children Mass & Reception 5:00 pm

MARRIAGE IS YOUR VOCATION - START LIVING IT

You can have a deep spiritual life in communion with your spouse and Christ through Teams of Our Lady, a Roman Catholic married lay movement that helps you structure and grow your conjugal spiritual life. A new Team is forming now at St. Francis! For more information or to RSVP please contact Eva St. Clair, eva.stclair@gmail.com, 415 446 8079

A REMINDER FROM FR. JOHN ... If anyone is living in a marriage that has not been recognized by the Catholic Church, it would be wise to consult with a priest to see whether that situation might be rectified. It could be as simple as repeating your marriage vows quietly in front of a priest and receiving the Church's blessing. In that way, one would become eligible to receive the Sacraments of the Church, especially the Eucharist

YOUR OFFERTORY CONTRIBUTION

Just a reminder that we do not record loose checks from the weekly collection. In order for us to track your contribution and send you a statement at the end of the year, it is suggested that you sign up for envelopes or Faith Direct. To sign up for envelopes you can call the Parish Office, (301) 840-1407. To sign up for electronic contributions visit www.faithdirect.net. The code for St. Francis is MD110. If you have any questions, please call the Parish Office.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS/EVENTS

CATECHISTS AND AIDES NEEDED

Additional volunteers are still needed in our Monday afternoon Elementary program and Monday evening middle school program. Please consider whether you can serve as a catechist or classroom aide for our children and young people. We need your help to keep our class sizes small. If you would like to learn more about this important ministry, please contact Susan Anderson, Director of Religious Education, at 301-258-9193.

CHRISTMAS STOCKING HELP LINE

Religious Education families are invited to participate in the Christmas Stocking Help Line, an Advent project to benefit children and families in need. Items needed will be listed on "stockings" hung in the Parish Center during RE class times. Families may choose to take one or more stockings, purchase the items listed, and return them to RE classes by December 11. Letters with more information about this project will be given to students in RE classes.

CATECHESIS FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

Our parish offers catechetical sessions specifically designed for children and youth with special needs and their families. Our next session is today, Sunday, December 9 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.

SACRAMENT OF PENANCE FOR RE STUDENTS

The students in grades 3 - 8 will have the opportunity to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation as part of their Religious Education classes in Advent. Catechists will review the Sacrament of Penance in advance, and we encourage parents to talk with their children about the Sacrament as well. Please note the date for your child's session and grade as shown below:

Sunday 9:20 Session:

Grade 3 - Sunday, Dec. 9 Grade 4 – Sunday, Dec. 16

Monday 6:45 Session:

Grades 6, 7 & 8 – Monday, Dec. 10 (participating in the Parish Penance Service starting at 7:00 pm)

Tuesday 6:45 Session:

Grades 6, 7 & 8 - Tuesday, Dec. 11

RE CLASS SCHEDULE & THE CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS

Religious Education classes will meet on a normal schedule next week, December 16, 17 and 18. There are NO Religious Education classes on the following days:

Sunday, Monday & Tuesday, December 23, 24 & 25. Sunday, Monday & Tuesday, December 30, 31 Jan. 1. Religious Education classes will resume on January 6, 7 and 8.

FIRST RECONCILIATION PREP DAY SATURDAY, JANUARY 5

Children preparing to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation for the first time will attend a day of preparation on Saturday, January 5 from 9:00 am - 12:30 pm in the Parish Center (Snow date: January 12). Please pray for these children who will receive this Sacrament on Saturday, January 19.

YOUTH MINISTRY NEWS/EVENTS

ST. FRANCIS YOUTH MINISTRY UPCOMING EVENTS

DECEMBER!

- Youth Group
- 14 Frank Runveon "The 3 1/2 Stories of Christmas" Church
- 16 Youth Christmas Party

Keep alert for a service project for teens with Interfaith Works!

JANUARY 2019 13 Youth Cree Youth Group Reconvenes

GET SOCIAL

Spotlight on St. Jude Regional Catholic School www.StJudeRockville.org

St. Jude Regional Catholic School

Cordially Invites You to Our Annual Christmas Program (Monday, December 10 2 PM & 7PM—Thaddeus Room)

Performances by the SJRCS Band, Class Performances (Pre-K 4 through 4th Grade), and 5th Grade Musical - Shepherds, Sheep and a Savior On a hill just outside of Bethlehem, lowly shepherds were tending their sheep at night. They didn't get much company out there. Nobody really wanted to talk to the shepherds. That is, nobody except an angel! This is their story - what they heard and what they saw that marvelous night when God came to dwell with men.

BREAKFAST WITH SANTA - DECEMBER 15 Join us in the Thaddeus Room on Saturday, December 15 from 9-11am for Breakfast with Santa. The Holiday Shoppe will be open for kids to buy presents for family and friends. Games, crafts, and gift wrapping will also be available. Please e-mail Sandra Cortez at scortez1108@gmail.com for more information about this event.

RE-ENROLLMENT FOR THE 2019-2020 SCHOOL YEAR IS OPEN All current families are asked to re-enroll for the 2019-2020 school. Please take a moment to register by following the links on our school website at www.stjuderockville.org. Go to Admission, then Apply Now, then Enrollment: TADS: Online Registration and Enrollment. Current families planning on enrolling children in grades PK-3 or Kindergarten should do so before January 1. Only current school families are being allowed to enroll new students prior to January 1. Open enrollment for new families begins on January 1, 2019. During Open Enrollment applications will be taken on a first come first serve basis.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION SNOW CANCELLATION POLICY

If Montgomery County Public Schools are closed, and if schools are dismissed early, Religious Education classes, including Youth Group 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 website and 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.

AMAZONSMILE ENABLES ST. FRANCIS TO INCREASE FUNDRAISING THROUGH ONLINE SHOPPING

This Christmas season, St. Francis parishioners can now support our church whenever they're shopping online at Amazon.com. St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church recently became a recipient of AmazonSmile, which enables the church to receive 0.5 percent of the price of eligible AmazonSmile purchases you make. Go to https://smile.amazon.com/ch/23-7174107 and start shopping! One caveat: we are currently listed as 'St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church, Location: Derwood, MA, not Derwood, MD.' Rest assured that when you use the link above, your funds will support our church. This inaccuracy will be changed in a couple of weeks, but in the meantime, the percentage of your purchases will go to support our St. Francis of Assisi Church of Derwood, MD. For more information, please contact Fr. Jack Berard at jberard@sfadw.org.

MUSIC NOTES: December 9: (Advent II)

The first version of the hymn text *On Jordan's Banks* was in fact written by Charles Coffin (1676 – 1749), a Roman Catholic scholar of Latin, who lived in France. He wrote the text, in Latin, for the Paris Breviary, a famous Roman Catholic liturgical collection. John Chandler translated the first three verses of the hymn in 1837, mistakenly thinking that it was a medieval text. Although the composer of the tune is uncertain, it was first published in a collection of hymns in Hamburg, in 1690. Over the years, the tune has seen a number of revisions; it received its name *Winchester New* in 1754.

INTERFAITH DIALOGUE ON RACISM HAPPENING DECEMBER 9 IN SILVER SPRING

If you attended the talk on racism delivered Nov. 17 by Fr. Robert Boxie, III, or wish you had, then you have another opportunity to discuss this issue of great importance in American society today. The Montgomery County Faith Community Working Group will sponsor its third annual Multicultural Dialogue Series at 6:30 pm Sunday, December 9, at the Imaam Center, 9100 Georgia Ave, Silver Spring, MD 20910. Montgomery County residents of all religious faiths and ethnic background are invited to attend the dialogue, "Exploring Racism and Bias: Meeting the Divine in the Other." The event will start with an optional potluck dinner at 6:30 pm, after participants will be grouped into small groups with a trained facilitator. At 7 pm, the program will start. Participants are encouraged to RSVP by going to www.tinyurl.com/ MCD2018IMAAM. For more information, please contact St. Francis Pax Christi member Bob Cooke cookerh1251@gmail.com.

2018 CONTRIBUTION STATEMENTS

To receive credit in 2018, your contributions must be dated December 31, 2018. If you are mailing a contribution, it must be received in the parish Office on or before Wednesday, January 2, 2019. As a reminder, the parish statement of contributions will not include your FAITHDIRECT contributions. You will receive a statement directly from FAITHDIRECT.

RETIREMENT FUND FOR RELIGIOUS COLLECTION - HELP RELIGIOUS COMMUNITIES

"Your generous contribution helps us to care for our retired sisters and enables our younger sisters to continue in active ministry," writes a religious sister. Your gift to today's Retirement Fund for Religious helps provide medications, nursing care, and more for thousands of senior sisters, brothers and religious order priests. It also helps ensure younger members can continue the good works of their elders!

START SETTING ASIDE YOUR GENTLY USED WINTER OUTERWEAR FOR THE CATHOLIC CHARITIES COAT DRIVE

If you or any of your family members plan to get new winter outerwear this Christmas season, them please consider donating your gently used coats, hats, scarves, gloves and mittens in good condition to the annual Catholic Charities Coat Drive. St. Francis of Assisi Church will collect the outerwear on the weekend of Jan. 5/6 and Jan. 12/13. Any items donated should be clean and in good condition; Catholic Charities is especially looking for men's XXL+ coats with hoods and women's XL+ coats with goods. Donations of new coats, scarves, hats, gloves and mittens are also welcome! Please check the bulletin for updates in coming weeks. For more information, please contact St. Francis Director of Social Concerns and Adult Faith Formation Tony Bosnick at abosnick@sfadw.org.

YOUNG ADULTS RETREAT

"The time of Advent returns us to the horizon of hope, a hope that does not disappoint because it is founded on the Word of God. A hope that does not disappoint, simply because the Lord never disappoints! He is faithful!"

- Pope Francis

All young adults (20s and 30s) are invited to enter into the spirituality of the advent season with a retreat: Prepare a Place for Him. The retreat will take place at Christ the King Catholic Church in Silver Spring, MD on Saturday, December 15th. Fr. Paul Dressler, O.F.M Cap. will lead the day. The day will include adoration, confession, small groups and a chance to get to know other young adults in the area! Please go to Facebook.com/270Catholic for more information. **Free parking is available at Christ the King. Nearest metro stop: Silver Spring

YOU DON'T DESERVE TO BE ABUSED

Domestic violence refers to a pattern of violent and coercive behavior by one adult over another in an intimate relationship. It can consist of repeated severe beatings or subtle forms of abuse, including threats and control. If you experience any form of abuse, please know that there is help. Call the National Domestic Violence Hotline at 1-800-799-7233. To learn more about domestic violence, please visit www.catholiccharitiesdc.org/familypeace.