ST FRANCIS OF ASSISI, DERWOOD



April 23 - April 29

Monday: 4/23 9:00 a.m. Antonio Faria
Tuesday, 4/24 9:00 a.m. Enrique Quemuel
Wednesday, 4/25 9:00 a.m. Reverend Francis Martin

7:30 p.m. Olive Atwell Stehle

Thursday, 4/26 9:00 a.m. Paul Popernack, Sr.

Friday, 4/27 9:00 a.m. Luigi & Bernice Mastronardi

Saturday, 4/28 9:00 a.m. Betty Dodaro

5:00 p.m. Betty Towey (L)

Sunday, 4/29 8:00 a.m. *Pro populo*

9:30 a.m. Victoria & Albert LeComte (L)

11:15 a.m. Warren Webb 5:00 p.m. Than Porter

+ In Memoriam Aeternam +

In your charity, please pray for the repose of the soul of Victoria Jordan, daughter of Elaine & Scott Jordan.

Please pray for the sick....Dianne Palmer, Maria Patterson, Betty White, Nick Powers, Carol Toney, Eusebia Lo, Serge Triau, Ed Dudenhoeffer, Bob Coyne, 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 April 22, 2018

Sunday: Acts 4:8-12/Ps 118:1, 8-9, 21-23, 26, 28, 29

[22]/1 Jn 3:1-2/Jn 10:11-18

Monday: Acts 11:1-18/Ps 42:2-3; 43:3, 4 [cf. 3a]/

Jn 10:1-10

Tuesday: Acts 11:19-26/Ps 87:1b-3, 4-5, 6-7 [117:1a]/

Jn 10:22-30

Wednesday: 1 Pt 5:5b-14/Ps 89:2-3, 6-7, 16-17 [2]/

Mk 16:15-20

Thursday: Acts 13:13-25/Ps 89:2-3, 21-22, 25 and 27 [2]/

Jn 13:16-20

Friday: Acts 13:26-33/Ps 2:6-7, 8-9, 10-11ab [7bc]/

Jn 14:1-6

Saturday: Acts 13:44-52/Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4 [3cd]/

Jn 14:7-14

Next Sunday: Acts 9:26-31/Ps 22:26-27, 28, 30, 31-32

[26a]/1 Jn 3:18-24/Jn 15:1-8

THE MUSINGS OF THE PASTOR

Cardinal Wuerl promulgated a Pastoral Plan to implement Pope Francis' post-synodal apostolic exhortation, *Amoris Laetitia* (AL), on Sunday March 4, 2018. The fourth section of the Pastoral Plan stresses the importance of parish life.

Today I want to present some thoughts for accompanying young adults that are presented in this section of the Pastoral Plan.

Marriage preparation does not begin when a person meets their future spouse or are engaged. "Marriage preparation begins at birth," Pope Francis notes, and continues through each stage of our lives (AL, 208). The best way to discern or prepare for a vocation is to live one's faith wholeheartedly and generously.

For young adults, that can mean cultivating the habits and qualities they want to have in the future, and they want their future spouse to have: like a habit of daily prayer, commitment to the poor, investment in authentic friendships and freedom from addictions.

Other ways that Catholic young adults can deepen their faith, draw closer to Christ, and find a spiritual home in the Church include:

- Discerning the gifts that God has given them and putting them into practice in their daily lives;
- Making the commitment to join a parish community;
- Donating and volunteering regularly at the parish;
- Finding a small community near them to belong to you: family, young adult community, small group, lay movement, etc.;
- Asking someone they admire to be a mentor—personally, spiritually, or professionally;
- Mentoring someone: a young person in their parish, a younger sibling or family friend, a roommate or coworker, etc.;
- Committing themselves to regular service to the poor, vulnerable, and forgotten;
- Learning more about their faith through ongoing spiritual reading, retreats, adult faith formation programs, and other opportunities;
- If they feel called to marriage, reading more about the Sacrament of Marriage or befriending a married couple to learn from; and
- Honoring their father and mother and other family members by working to grow closer to them and demonstrating their love and care for them, even if they live far away.

Finally, today is the Fifty-fifth World Day of Prayer for Vocations. Pope Francis has delivered a message to mark this occasion. I want to present several excerpts from his message to conclude this column:

Even amid these troubled times, the mystery of the Incarnation reminds us that God continually comes to encounter us. He is God-with-us, who walks along the often dusty paths of our lives.

Continued in the column to the right.....

Fourth Sunday of Easter

QUESTION OF THE WEEK

In what ways can the Holy Spirit give me wisdom and courage to speak out and act regarding issues in the world, in our country, or in my community?

2018 CARDINAL'S ANNUAL APPEAL PARISH PROGRESS

Thank you to all our parishioners who have made their gift to the 2018 Cardinal's Annual Appeal. St. Francis is at 78% towards our parish goal of \$190,100. If you have not yet made your commitment to the Appeal, it is not too late to help St. Francis meet our goal. Please visit **appeal.adw.org** to learn more and donate! In supporting the appeal you join with others in nurturing the faith throughout the Church of Washington.

TRAVELING TOGETHER ON THE JOURNEY: CATHOLICS, PROTESTANTS, MUSLIMS AND JEWS

Please save the date May 19 for what promises to be an engaging discussion on interfaith relations led by Rev. John Crossin, who worked with the U.S. bishops on promoting work among interfaith leaders. The panel discussion will be held from 9:45 a.m.-12:00 Noon Saturday, May 19, in the Parish Center. Representatives from other faith traditions are expected to join the panel to provide additional viewpoints.

For more information, please contact St. Francis Social Concerns Minister Tony Bosnick at abosnick@sfadw.org.

THE MUSINGS OF THE PASTOR (continued)

He knows our anxious longing for love and he calls us to joy. In the diversity and uniqueness of each and every vocation, personal and ecclesial, there is a need to listen, discern, and live this word that calls to us from on high and, while enabling us to develop our talents, makes us instruments of salvation in the world and guides us to full happiness.

Today the Lord continues to call others to follow him. We should not wait to be perfect in order to respond with our generous "yes," nor be fearful of our limitations and sins, but instead open our hearts to the voice of the Lord. To listen to that voice, to discern our personal mission in the Church and the world, and at last to live it in the today that God give us.

May Mary Most Holy, who as a young woman living in obscurity heard, accepted, and experienced the Word of God made flesh, protect us and accompany us always in our journey.

Here is a link for those who would like to read the Holy Father's Message for the 2018 World Day of Vocations in its entirety: https://tinyurl.com/y7qj16f5.

Until next week,

Fr. John

LAST OPPORTUNITY TO SIGN UP FOR WORK ASSOCIATED WITH REBUILDING TOGETHER

With the Rebuilding Together projects set to start next weekend on April 28, there are still volunteer opportunities for parishioners who would like to take part. Volunteer slots to help at the house in Silver Spring are now full, but parishioners are still welcome to help do general cleanup work at the Rectory. The Garden Care Ministry will also be expanding the perennial and deer-resistant flower beds on the church grounds on April 28 and is looking for volunteers to perform light gardening work and plant daffodils.

To help volunteer at the Rectory to do light cleanup work, please e-mail Rebuilding Together Volunteer Coordinator Pat O'Connor at leafs20879@aol.com. To help volunteer to help expand perennial flower beds at the church, please contact Garden Care Ministry Coordinator Maria Dunn at (202) 281-4096.

LEARN ABOUT SPIRITUAL DISCERNMENT AT SECOND BROWN BAG CONVERSATION ON APRIL 22

How do you know if something comes from the Holy Spirit or if it comes from the evil forces of the world or the devil? Yes, there is knowledge, reasoning and common sense but there's only one way -- that is through *discernment*. What is discernment? Discernment is a spiritual gift that we ask from the Holy Spirit. And Fr. John Dillon will discuss it at length during the Brown Bag Conversation at 1:00 p.m. Sunday, April 22, in the Rectory's Assisi Room.

In this age of secularism and consumerism, there is a greater need and call to discernment. Our world presents us with many people, processes, and situations that look good, sound good, feel good but are just distractions to our Christian way of life. In his apostolic exhortation about The Call to Holiness, Pope Francis said: "We are free, with the freedom of Jesus, but He calls us to examine what is within us - desires, distresses, fears, expectations - and what happens outside of us - the 'signs of the times' - to recognize the ways of full freedom." "Sift all things and keep what is good" (1 Thess 5:21)."

Join the conversation on April 22. For more information, contact Medy DeAusen at medydeausen@comcast.net.

Altar Servers Schedule

Saturday, April 28

5:00 p.m. J. Gacuma, I. Larson

Sunday, April 29

8:00 a.m. L. Federico, Br. Martin 9:30 a.m. Be. Martin, M. Pease 11:15 a.m. B. Bell, M. Cannetti 5:00 p.m. C. Carroll, G. D'Sousa

It is the responsibility of the Altar Server to get a replacement if you cannot serve at your scheduled time

April 22, 2018

LAMB OF GOD PRAYER MEETING Join the Lamb of God Prayer Group for worship and the study of Scripture on Tuesday, April 24, 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 Olney 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 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 Sunday. 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.

ST. FRANCIS ANNUAL INDOOR YARD SALE SATURDAY, MAY 12, 8:00 a.m. -12:00 Noon

See today's bulletin insert for drop-off times, items we will be accepting. Volunteer sign-ups begin next weekend!



MOTHER'S DAY MASS CARDS

Cards will be available next weekend in the Gathering Space. This is a wonderful way to remember your Mother, Mother-in-law, Grandmother, Aunt or anyone special at all the Masses on Mother's Day. Please return your spiritual bouquet envelope to the parish office on or before Wednesday, May 9.

COMPLETE THE INDICATORS OF VITALITY SURVEY BEFORE IT CLOSES APRIL 28

If you haven't already, members of our St. Francis community ages 14 and older have one more week to complete the Indicators of Vitality Survey for the parish. Created by then-Bishop Donald Wuerl in the Diocese of Pittsburgh (PA), the archdiocesan tool provides a way for St. Francis members to assess our parish in five key areas – Liturgy and Worship, Education Formation, Community, Service and Administration and Stewardship. It will give parish leaders valuable insight into St. Francis' capacity to grow and make disciples.

The survey can be accessed through several means:

- Going to the parish web site, <u>www.sfadw.org</u>, and clicking on the survey link on the homepage.
- Typing the survey link URL, https://s.zoomerang.com/r/GW3RBNZ, into a web browser.
- Filling out a paper copy of the survey, which is available in the Gathering Space until Saturday, April 28.

Anyone 14 years or older who regularly attends St. Francis of Assisi Parish or has recently done so is invited to complete an Indicators of Vitality Survey. Those who complete the survey are eligible to win an Amazon gift card, but members of the Parish Pastoral Council – which is administering the survey – and their family members are not eligible to participate in the drawing. For more information about the Indicators of Vitality Survey, contact the Parish Pastoral Council at asktheppc@gmail.com.

REGISTER NOW FOR VACATION BIBLE CAMP 2018 SHIPWRECKED: Rescued by Jesus!

Who: Children age 4 by 6/24/2018 through those

who are completing 5th grade June 2018

Where: St. Francis of Assisi Church Parish Center

When: June 25t–29th, 2018 from 9:00am – 12:30pm

Cost: \$50 per child

How: Complete the Registration Form found in the Church Gathering Space and on our parish website (<u>sfadw.org/vbc</u>) and return by mail or in person to the Parish Office during business hours (Mon-Fri; 8am – 4pm) with the Registration Fee via Check or Faith Direct. (For Faith Direct information contact the Parish Office, 301-840-1407 for details.)

St. Francis of Assisi Church, Religious Education Office – VBC 6701 Muncaster Mill Road, Derwood, MD 20855

FORMED THE CATHOLIC FAITH ON DEMAND

The best Catholic content. All in one place. It's EASY and FREE to Register!

- 1) Go to **sfadw.formed.org**
- 2) Click "Register" and enter your name, email address, and desired password
- 3) You're all ready to access the inspiring and Engaging content on FORMED!
- 4) Enjoy and share with others in our local community!

FORMED is available 24/7 for you to grow in your faith. St. Francis has purchased this gift for parish use.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS/EVENTS

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CLASSES

Please make note of the schedule for the remaining Religious Education classes for this school year:

April 22, 23 and 24 RE Classes
April 29, 30 and May 1 RE Classes
May 6, 7 and 8 Last RE Classes
(except for Confirmation classes)

UPCOMING SACRAMENTS AT ST. FRANCIS

Please pray for the children and young people of our parish who are preparing to receive First Holy Communion and the Sacrament of Confirmation this Spring. First Eucharist will be celebrated on Saturday, April 28 at 1:00 p.m. The Sacrament of Confirmation will be celebrated on Monday, May 21 at 7:00 p.m.

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, April 22, 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.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION REGISTRATION FOR 2018-2019

We are now accepting registration for next year's Religious Education Program! Our program offerings for children and youth include:

- Pre-school and Kindergarten classes on Sunday mornings,
 11:10-12:15 p.m. (Preschool classes are for children age 3 or 4 by September 1)
- Grade 1-5 classes offered at two session times:
 - Sunday mornings, 9:20-10:35 a.m.
 - Monday afternoons, 4:45-6:00 p.m.
- Grade 6, 7, and 8 classes offered at two session times:
 - Monday evenings, 6:45-8:00 p.m.
 - Tuesday evenings, 6:45-8:00 p.m.
- Grades 9-12 (Youth Group) meet Sunday evenings 6:00-8:00
 p.m. (following the 5:00 p.m. Youth Mass)

Since the curriculum of the Religious Education Program is designed to be taught in sequence and each year builds on the content presented in previous years, families should plan for their children to participate in Religious Education classes each year.

Registration forms were mailed home to families with children currently attending RE classes. For those new to our program, and if additional forms are needed, blank forms will be available on the parish web site (www.sfadw.org), in the Gathering Space of the Church, and in the Parish Offices. Completed forms can returned to RE classes this week, sent in by mail, or dropped off in person at the Rectory Office (Monday-Friday, 8:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.). Classes are filled on a first-come, first-served basis. Please complete and return the registration forms as soon as possible!

Continued in the column to the right......

YOUTH MINISTRY NEWS/EVENTS

ST. FRANCIS YOUTH MINISTRY Upcoming Events

FRED

APRIL

20-22 FRED Retreat: "What Do YOU Stand For?"

22 No FRED

28-29 Krispy Kreme/Jewelry Sale29 Be Real - Romans 12:9

GET SOCIAL

Follow us on Instagram & Twitter @ SFAFRED.

PANEL DISCUSSION ON OPIOID EPIDEMIC INTRODUCES HOPE THAT RECOVERY IS POSSIBLE

If you or a loved one is battling addiction to opioid drugs, then an upcoming panel discussion to be held Monday, April 23 at St. Rose of Lima Church in Gaithersburg may shed some light on how to best address the challenges associated with recovery. The discussion, "An Opioid Epidemic: Our Community, Our Concern," will be held at 6:30 p.m. at the church. The panel will discuss prevention, addiction, recovery, supports and resources. Most importantly, panelists — who include parents, law enforcement personnel, recovery and treatment specialists, those in recovery and those who have lost family members — will introduce the notion that that recovery is possible. All are welcome, including high school-aged students who have their parents' permission to attend. For more information, contact Christine Jeffrey at cjeffrey@strose.com.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (continued)

REGISTERING FOR SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION

Sacramental preparation for 1st Reconciliation, 1st Eucharist, Confirmation, and Christian Initiation for Children/Teens (CIC/CIT) is not grade specific and involves preparation <u>in addition</u> to grade level Religious Education classes. At minimum, children are expected to have participated in religious education in the year prior to preparing for a sacrament. Please note: students preparing for the Sacrament of Confirmation will attend their grade-level Religious Education classes as well as monthly Confirmation sessions.

Families requesting sacramental preparation for their child are asked to mark their registration form accordingly so that additional information can be provided. Please note that there is a separate materials fee for sacramental preparation programs. More details will be provided at the parent meetings next year.

If you have any questions, please call the Religious Education Office at 301-258-9193.



PLANT SALE SATURDAY/SUNDAY MAY 19/20

(Annuals, Herbs, Hanging Baskets, Potted Plants!)

PLAN TO ATTEND FORUM FOR MONTGOMERY COUNTY EXECUTIVE CANDIDATES ON MAY 3

All Catholics living in Montgomery County are encouraged to attend a forum for candidates running for Montgomery County Executive at 7:00 p.m. Thursday, May 3, at the Shrine of St. Jude Catholic Church in Rockville.

Co-sponsored by The Justice and Advocacy Council of Montgomery County and Catholic Charities, the forum will provide an opportunity for candidates to give their views on growth, taxes, transportation, public safety and other issues affecting the lives of people who live and work in Montgomery County. As Catholics, our faith challenges us to have government meet the basic needs of the vulnerable; the forum provides a venue for candidates to state how they would address those needs.

Moderated by Rev. Msgr. John Enzler, president and CEO of Catholic Charities for the Archdiocese of Washington, the forum takes place six months before the election to choose the county's next leader. All candidates running for the office will be present and include:

Roger Berliner (D) William Frick (D)
David Blair (D) Rose Krasnow (D)
Marc Elrich (D) George Leventhal (D)

Robin Ficker (R)

For more information, see www.CatholicCharitiesdc.org.

Spotlight on St. Jude Regional Catholic School Catch our Spirit

www.StJudeRockville.org

SJRCS JUNIOR SCIENCE FAIR - April 26 Please come and explore the exciting world of science as seen through the students' eyes, as budding scientists from Pre-K through 5th grades display their science projects. The Jr. Science Fair will be held April 26th from 9:00 a.m. to 2:15 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. (Family Night) in the Thaddeus Room.

CHILDREN'S CARNIVAL - April 28 Children aged 2 to 7 years are invited to a Children's Carnival on Saturday, April 28, from 11:00 to 1:00 in the Thaddeus Room. There will be free food, games, crafts, activities, and more. The event will be held rain or shine.

DANCING WITH THE 8TH GRADE STARS Join us for *Dancing with the 8th Grade Stars* on May 3^{rd} at 1:00 in the Thaddeus Room. The 8^{th} grade students will dance the waltz, swing, cha cha and hustle in our annual 8^{th} Grade Dance Competition.

BULLDOG BOLT 5K & FUN RUN – MAY 12 All are invited to the 4th Annual Fun Run followed by an HAS sponsored cookout. Register online http://www.stjuderockville.org/pages/StJudeRegionalCatholicSchool/Giving/Bulldog Bolt 5K race

Bereavement Support (continued)

Parent Loss Support Group

For adults who have experienced the death of one or both parents.

Dates & Time: Thursdays, May 17 through June 21, 6:30-8 pm **Location:** St. John's Episcopal Church-Norwood Parish, 6701 Wisconsin Ave, Chevy Chase

Loss of a Child Support Group:

For parents grieving the death of a child of any age. **Dates & Time:** Wednesdays, May 16 through June 20, 6:30-8 pm

Location: Montgomery Hospice, 1355 Piccard Drive,

Rockville

SFA Health Ministry

Encouraging health and wellbeing in body, mind and soul

National Healthcare Decisions Day

National Healthcare Decisions Day on April 16 appropriately coincides with the Easter Season when we are poignantly reminded of the eternal life we share with our Risen Lord. Through His Resurrection, Christ has conquered death and secured our everlasting life with Him. It is fitting then that during this glorious Easter Season we turn attention to the passage from our temporal to our eternal life.

National Healthcare Decisions Day is a nationwide initiative endorsed by the Catholic Medical Association to ensure that all adults with decision-making capacity have the information and opportunity to be informed and document their healthcare decisions. Such a document is called an advance directive and can be prepared without expense.

An excellent resource to inform and guide healthcare decisions in accordance with Church teaching is <u>Comfort and Consolation</u> — <u>Care of the Sick and Dying</u>. This informative booklet outlines the foundational principles of the Church's approach to the care of the sick and dying. This booklet and its companion texts, <u>Comfort and Consolation Questions and Answers</u> and <u>Health Care Directives</u>, are excellent resources that guide parishioners through conversations with loved ones on end-of-life issues. These resources can be obtained from the St Francis Rectory or purchased at <u>www. mdcathcon.org.</u> Additionally, St. Francis priests, deacons and the parish nurse, Betty Baklarz, RN are available for spiritual guidance and consultation.

Bereavement Support

Support Group for Families after Miscarriage, Infant Death or Stillbirth When a family experiences the loss of a child, the grief journey can be a lonely one. This parent-to-parent support group will provide a safe place to share feelings and receive comfort from others who have experienced a similar loss.

Date & Time: Tuesdays, April 24 through June 5, 7 pm-8:30 pm **Location:** River Room, second floor near Emergency Room Entrance, Shady Grove Medical Center, 9901 Medical Center Drive, Rockville, Maryland 20850

Registration: Jeanine L. McGrath, RN,

jeaninemcgrath@gmail.com (240) 481-3903 or

The Adventist HealthCare Parent Education Office (301) 315-3130 or -3131

Montgomery Hospice Workshop and Support Groups

Serving Montgomery County residents, Led by professional counselors. Registration and Information: (301) 921-4400

Grief Workshop: Remembering Mom and Dad

For adults who have lost a parent or parents.

Date & Time: May 9, 7-8:30 pm

Location: Montgomery Hospice, 1355 Piccard Drive,

Suite 100, Rockville

Afternoon Grief Support Group

For anyone grieving the death of a loved one.

Dates & Time: Tuesdays, May 15 through June 19, 1:30-3 pm Location: North Bethesda United Methodist Church, 10100 Old Georgetown Road, Bethesda

Evening Grief Support Group

For anyone grieving the death of a loved one.

Dates & Time: Wednesdays, May 16 through June 20, 6:30-8 pm **Location:** Montgomery Hospice, 1355 Piccard Drive,

Suite 100, Rockville