

ST FRANCIS OF ASSISI, DERWOOD

Mass Intentions

August 7 - August 13

Monday, 8/7	9:00 a.m. Deceased Family Members - Lacava & Jamgochian Families
Tuesday, 8/8	9:00 a.m. Barbara Lynn Beall
Wednesday, 8/9	9:00 a.m. James Bussard, Jr. 7:30 p.m. Reverend Thomas F. Kehoe
Thursday, 8/10	9:00 a.m. Catherine Dillon Bullen
Friday, 8/11	9:00 a.m. Daniel Mastronardi
Saturday, 8/12	9:00 a.m. Catherine Dillon Bullen 5:00 p.m. Robert Dax
Sunday, 8/13	8:00 a.m. Maria Buisen 9:30 a.m. Elena D. De Leon 11:15 a.m. Paul Lea 5:00 p.m. <i>Pro populo</i>

+ In Memoriam Aeternam +

In your charity, please pray for the repose of the souls of Bill English, husband of C.C. English, Ann DeStwolinski, wife of Richard DeStwolinski, Carolyn Maltz, mother of Donna Ruffin, Thomas Kuehner, nephew of Msgr. Ralph Kuehner, John J. Quill, father of Reverend Michael J. Quill, Retired, Archdiocese of Washington.

Please pray for the sick....Tom Krafchik, Esther Torres, Bernard Kohan, Sr., Evelyn Haddad, Carolyn Speaks, Bart Trickett, Katrina Schmidt, Bienvenido Delrosario, Kathy Denchfield, Jackie Roebuck King, Bob Coyne, Jeni Stepanek, Debbie & Roger Petrocelli. *(Names will remain on this list for four consecutive weeks, but can be repeated by calling the Office.)*

Readings for the Week of August 6, 2017

Sunday:	Dn 7:9-10, 13-14/Ps 97:1-2, 5-6, 9/2 Pt 1:16-19/Mt 17:1-9
Monday:	Nm 11:4-15/Ps 81:12-17/Mt 14:13-21
Tuesday:	Nm 12:1-13/Ps 51:3-7, 12-13/Mt 14:22-36
Wednesday:	Nm 13:1-2, 25--14:1, 26-29, 34-35/ Ps 106:6-7, 13-14, 21-23/Mt 15:21-28
Thursday:	2 Cor 9:6-10/Ps 112:1-2, 5-9/Jn 12:24-26
Friday:	Dt 4:32-40/Ps 77:12-16, 21/Mt 16:24-28
Saturday:	Dt 6:4-13/Ps 18:2-4, 47, 51/Mt 17:14-20
Next Sunday:	1 Kgs 19:9, 11-13a/Ps 85:9-14/Rom 9:1-5/ Mt 14:22-33

Scripture Corner

TRANSFIGURATION OF JESUS

The Transfiguration of our Lord was a very important reality in his life. The significance of the Transfiguration can be appreciated by studying the events that precede it. That series begins with the confession of Peter. He responds to the question of Christ, "But who do you say that I am?" with these words, "You are the Messiah, THE Son of the living God." (Matthew 16:15-16)

Jesus immediately points out that he will be a suffering Messiah "From that time on, Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer greatly from the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed and on the third day be raised." (Matthew 16:21) Peter rebuked Christ for this statement. Jesus responded, "Get behind me, Satan! You are an obstacle to me. You are thinking not as God does, but as human beings do." (Matthew 16:23)

Jesus then follows with the conditions he requires from his disciples. "Whoever wishes to come after me must deny himself, take up his cross and follow me." (Matthew 16:24) Our Lord rebukes Peter and he made it clear that he would suffer and die and that his followers must take up the cross. Our Lord follows all that by the Transfiguration to give hope to his followers, "And he was transfigured before them; his face shone like the sun and his clothes became white as light." (Matthew 17:2)

In a wonderful way Moses and Elijah appear with Jesus. They represent the Law and the prophets of the Old Testament. Now Christ will be the source of laws and prophecies in the New Testament.

Finally, there is the "bright cloud casting a shadow over them, then from the cloud came a voice that said, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to him." (Matthew 17:5) Moses wrote, "A prophet like will the Lord, your God, raise up for you among your own kindred; this is the one to whom you shall listen." (Deuteronomy 18:15) God appears at the Transfiguration and adds these words, "listen to him" to his proclamation at our Lord's baptism

Fr. Ralph

The Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

QUESTION OF THE WEEK

What peak experience do you hold onto, or what experience holds onto you? How does it help you when it is time to bear your cross and share in Jesus' passion?

WELCOME to the Family of Christ!

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

Laura Clavijo
Michael Diengdoh & Melinda Wahlang
Defny Ferraro & Kenneth Ellis
Sharon Harper
Erin & Timothy Page
Aime Self
Matthew & Therese Tansey
Prasad & Kavitha Yanigandla

The following child was baptized during the month of July:

Turner Matthew Bearr

SOME THOUGHTS FROM BISHOP FRANK DEWANE

“All people need and should have access to comprehensive, quality health care that they can afford, and it should not depend on their stage of life, where or whether they or their parents work, how much they earn, where they live, or where they were born. The Bishops' Conference believes health care should be truly universal and it should be genuinely affordable.” Most Rev. Frank J. Dewane, Bishop of Venice (FL) and Chairman, Committee on Domestic Justice and Human Development, United States Conference of Catholic Bishops. Copies of Bishop Dewane's letter of July 20, 2017 to all the United States Senators are available on the Social Concerns table.

THE MUSINGS OF THE PASTOR (continued)

Bury the dead (continued)

- Visit the cemetery and pray for those you have lost.
- Spend time planning your own funeral Mass, read through the Order of Christian Funerals and find our hope in the Resurrection.

Give alms to the poor

Donate money to organizations that have the ability to provide support and services for those in need. Do research and find organizations that put people in need first, rather than profit.

- Skip the morning latte and put that money in the collection basket at church.
- Find a charity that is meaningful to you and volunteer your time or donate.
- Next Lent, giving up eating at restaurants. Pack your meals and donate the extra money to charities.
- Participate in CRS Rice Bowl next Lent.

Until next week,
Fr. John Dillon

THE MUSINGS OF THE PASTOR

In last week's column I proposed that we look at practicing the works of mercy as way to answer the following question. *In a world divided by economics and education, social status and political opinions, race and religion, what can I do this week to bring people together?* I want to continue that conversation in this week's column. Let's look at some works of mercy and some concrete ways to practice them as suggested by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB).

Visit the sick

Those who are sick are often forgotten or avoided. In spite of their illness, these individuals still have much to offer those who take the time to visit and comfort them.

- Give blood.
- Spend time volunteering at a nursing home—Get creative and make use of your talents (e.g. sing, read, paint, call Bingo, etc.)!
- Take time on a Saturday to stop and visit with an elderly neighbor.
- Offer to assist caregivers of chronically ill sick family members on a one-time or periodic basis. Give caregivers time off from their care giving responsibilities so they can rest, complete physical chores, or enjoy a relaxing break.
- Next time you make a meal that can be easily frozen, make a double batch and give it to a family in your parish that has a sick loved one.

Visit the prisoners

People in prison are still people, made in the image and likeness of God. No matter what someone has done, they deserve the opportunity to hear the Word of God and find the Truth of the message of Christ.

- See if your parish, or a nearby parish, has a prison ministry and if so, get involved.
- Volunteer to help out to donate to charities that give Christmas presents to children whose parents are in prison.

Bury the dead

Funerals give us the opportunity to grieve and show others support during difficult times. Through our prayers and actions during these times we show our respect for life, which is always a gift from God, and comfort to those who mourn.

- Send a card to someone who has recently lost a loved one. Make your own card and use some of these prayers:
 - * What will separate us from the love of Christ? (Romans 8:35)
 - * Whether we live or die, we are the Lord's. (Romans 14:8)
 - * We shall always be with the Lord. (1 Thessalonians 4:17)
 - * To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul. (Ps 25:1)
 - * Holy Mary, pray for me.
Saint Joseph, pray for me
Jesus, Mary and Joseph, assist me in my last agony.

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

August 6, 2017

LAMB OF GOD PRAYER MEETING Join the Lamb of God Prayer Group for worship and the study of Scripture on Tuesday, August 8, 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 Shady Grove Pregnancy Center. *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 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.

YOU ARE INVITED TO STOP & PRAY AT THE PEACE POLE AFTER MASS TODAY

As St. Francis of Assisi Parish celebrates the Feast of the Transfiguration on Sunday, August 6, it will also solemnly commemorate the dropping the atomic bomb on Hiroshima, Japan, 72 years ago, on August 6, 1945. We pray that the glory of our Lord's Transfiguration may transform us to pray and work for peace in our hearts, homes and world.

After Masses this weekend, the Pax Christi Ministry invites parishioners to visit the Peace Pole, which stands in the Pollinator Garden to the left of the main church doors as you enter. A member of the ministry will hand out a pocket-sized peace prayer/poem for parishioners to reflect on during the week.

Depicted on the pole are the words, "May Peace Prevail on Earth," in the following eight languages, reflecting the diversity of our parish community: English, Spanish, Creole, French, Arabic, Chinese, Russian and Italian.

For more information about the Pax Christi Ministry and the Peace Pole, contact Anne Russell at Acrus-sell3310@gmail.com

NEW NEIGHBOR TO NEIGHBOR TEAM SEEKING MEMBERS WITH COMMUNICATIONS, EVENT PLANNING EXPERTISE

As we celebrate today the Feast of the Transfiguration of the Lord, we take note that the disciples "were very much afraid" not knowing what this new journey represented. Today each one of us is challenged to transfigure ourselves and be open to uncharted territory. You are invited to join a group of fellow parishioners on such a journey.

With the new housing construction near Magruder High School and the Shady Grove Metro Station, coupled with the "turning over" of neighborhoods near St. Francis, Fr. John has initiated a Neighbor to Neighbor Team to help strategize and plan how we can best reach out to these new neighbors. This will be a highly strategic ministry, as its members will be asked to think about the various audiences we intend to engage and form an understanding of what could motivate them to join our parish or participate more.

We are looking for parish members with experience in:

- Advertising /Marketing
- Event planning
- Public relations
- Communications strategy
- Similar outreaches to new neighbors or new members of a community.

Please let Deacon Dan Finn know of your interest by e-mailing him at deacondanfinn@gmail.com or calling him at (240) 393-8180. You can also sign up to join the team at the Information Desk.

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults

RCIA-the process by which Adults become Catholic.

Can you answer "Yes" to any of these questions?

- Are you interested in learning more about the Catholic Church?
- Are you unbaptized but recognize a need for spirituality in your life?
- Were you baptized Catholic or baptized into another denomination but never received any formal religious education?
- Are you married to a Catholic and attend Mass, but just don't know what the next step is to become one of the Catholic faithful?

RCIA is the place for you. Every year adults are welcomed into the Catholic Community through RCIA. It is a learning and loving process in which conversion of the heart brings you to Jesus Christ who is our Lord and Savior.

Classes will begin in mid-September. For more information, we invite you to call or e-mail Terry Davis (301-774-0783, e-mail davistj23@gmail.com) or Sara Dean (301-977-6373, e-mail sgdean129@gmail.com). There is no obligation, just information.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS/EVENTS

REGISTRATION FOR 2017-2018

Please help us prepare well for this year's Religious Education classes by returning your registration form as soon as possible. Even if not completely certain about which RE session will best match your family's schedule, please return a registration form now, marking your best guess for session time with a note that this is subject to change.

Registration forms are available on the parish web site (www.sfadw.org), in the Gathering Space of the Church, and in the Parish Offices. Completed forms can be mailed, or dropped off in person at the Rectory Office (Monday-Friday, 8 am-4 pm). Classes are filled on a first-come, first-served basis and children must be registered before they can begin classes. A calendar for 2017-18 is available now on the parish website. Paper copies will be mailed in early September to all who have registered. **Classes are scheduled to begin on September 17, 18, and 19!**

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 (FRED) 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.

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 in addition 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.

CATECHISTS NEEDED

Please consider whether you can serve as a catechist for our children and young people. Additional catechists are always welcome and much needed, especially for our Monday and Tuesday evening middle school program. If you would like to learn more about this important ministry, please contact Susan Anderson, Director of Religious Education, at 301-258-9193.

YOUTH MINISTRY NEWS/EVENTS

ST. FRANCIS YOUTH MINISTRY

Upcoming Events

FRED

AUGUST

- 6 FRED Summer Nights
- 8 Youth Appreciation Day
- 12 Bowie Baysocks Game
- 13 Fred Summer Nights
- 21-25 Middle School Service Camp
- 26 Faith Night at the Nats Game
- 27 FRED Summer Nights

GET SOCIAL

"FRED - SFA Youth Ministry" Page on Facebook
"St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church" page on Facebook

MONTGOMERY COUNTY FAIR PASSES

Thank you to all those who have signed up!

Passes will be handed out after the following Masses: ***Saturday 5:00, Sunday 8:00, 9:30, 11:15 & 5:00*** this weekend. If you will not be at one of the Masses this weekend, you can pick-up your passes in the Parish Office beginning Monday, August 7.

An alphabetical listing of volunteers is posted in the Gathering Space this weekend.

Thank you again, we couldn't do this without your support!

CATHOLIC CAMPAIGN FOR HUMAN DEVELOPMENT

Please be generous for this collection. In the United States, one in six people lives in poverty. With this collection you support programs that address the causes of poverty and provide a sustainable future for those who are struggling across the country. In addition, 25% of funds collected remains in our diocese to fund local anti-poverty projects. Please prayerfully consider how you can support this collection and work on the margins. More information about the Catholic Campaign for Human Development can be found at www.usccb.org/cchd/collection.

DONATE YOUR USED CLOTHING If you are sorting through gently used clothing to give away, remember that there is a St. Vincent de Paul clothing collection bin in the lower parking lot. Donations of clean clothing in good repair is greatly appreciated. Please put clothing in a plastic bag and deposit in the slot at the top of the bin. Collections are made weekly and will be a great blessing to those in need in the region.

ORIGINS OF ST. FRANCIS' HAITI MEDICAL MISSION DOCUMENTED IN BOOK BY PARISHIONER

Have you ever wondered how St. Francis of Assisi Parish began providing the Haiti Medical Missions in Leon, Haiti? The story is now documented in the book, *Haiti Beyond Belief*, a 135-page memoir written by St. Francis parishioner and pharmacist Frank J. Nice, who founded the medical mission in 1996 to provide primary medical interventions to parishioners in St. Francis' twin parish, St. Paul's Parish.

Nice's book recounts many of his experiences over 22 visits to Haiti, including the Haitian clergy and people he met and the local medical mission employees that he and other members of the medical mission team worked alongside. The clinic now serves 4,500 patients a year in Leon and its surrounding areas during five one-week medical mission trips to Haiti.

The book is available through Nice's web site: www.nicebreastfeeding.com and through Amazon at: https://www.amazon.com/dp/0998502413/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1501004726&sr=8-1&keywords=Haiti+Beyond+Belief.

Recently, the book garnered a five-star review on Amazon.

Haiti Beyond Belief sells for \$10.04 (to commemorate Hurricane Matthew, which struck Haiti on 10/4/16). Whether the book is ordered through Nice's web site or bought directly from Amazon, Nice encourages buyers to contact him at fjncat@hotmail.com so he can make arrangements to sign it.

All proceeds from the sales of *Haiti Beyond Belief* will be donated to the Haiti Medical Mission. For more information about the Haiti Medical Mission, visit www.sfadw.org under 'Haiti-Our Sister Parish.'

MASS FOR THE HOMEBOUND

adw.org/tvmass
(301) 853-4517

Do you know someone who can't get to Mass? Please tell them about the Sunday TV Mass, which is produced by the Archdiocese of Washington and taped in the Crypt Church of the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception. It is a wonderful ministry for those members of our Catholic family who are unable to be physically present with a local worshipping community for the Sunday Eucharistic Liturgy. The Mass airs every Sunday at 10:30 a.m. on WDCW-50:

- No cable; Dish or Direct TV subscribers: Ch. 50.
- Comcast: Ch. 23 in Washington, DC & Montgomery County; Ch. 3 in Prince George's County and Southern Maryland
- RCN: Ch. 15
- Verizon: Ch. 3

RIGHT TO LIFE OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY

This year, Right to Life of Montgomery County will again have a pro-life booth at the Montgomery County Fair, August 11-19. If you are interested in helping out at the booth please call Tharpa Roberts, (301) 962-5611 or rtl-mc@verizon.net. If you volunteered last year, Tharpa will be calling you to see if you can help again this year. Your help is greatly appreciated.

SFA HEALTH MINISTRY

Encouraging health and wellbeing of body, mind and soul

BLOOD PRESSURE SCREENING TO BE HELD NEXT WEEKEND

The St. Francis Health Ministry will have its monthly blood pressure screening after Masses at 5:00 p.m. Saturday, August 12, and after the 8:00, 9:30 and 11:15 a.m. Masses on Sunday, August 13, in the St. Clare Room off the Gathering Space. For more information, contact Ministry Coordinator Betty Baklarz at lbbaklarz@yahoo.com.

UNBOUND: FREEDOM IN CHRIST CONFERENCE

August 11-12

**Mother of God Community
20501 Goshen Road,
Gaithersburg**

Do you feel stuck, unable to forgive, heal or move forward? Come to the Unbound Conference and receive the healing and freedom that Jesus longs for you. Unbound is an internationally renowned ministry that has touched many lives. It is used by Baltimore, Arlington and Washington Dioceses. We are fortunate to have Neal and Janet Lozano, founders of Unbound Ministries, presenting a sound and practical way for Christians to experience a greater freedom from the influence of sin & evil in their lives and to enjoy a greater fullness of life won for us by Christ's death and resurrection. For information go to www.UnboundADW.org or call 301-799-5519.

STRESS IN YOUR MARRIAGE?

Retrouvaille is a program for married couples that feel bored, disillusioned, frustrated, or angry in their marriage. Some experience coldness. Others experience conflict in their relationship. Most don't know how to change the situation or even communicate with their spouse about it. This program has helped 10's of 1000's of couples experiencing difficulties in their marriage. For confidential information about or to register for the September program beginning with a weekend on September 15-17, 2017 call (443) 400-7017, or email: 3015@retrouvaille.org or visit the web site at www.HelpOurMarriage.com

Gaithersburg HELP Run/Walk Benefit - September 4

On September 4, 2017, the MoCo Interfaith 5k Run/Walk will be held at the Germantown Soccerplex to benefit Gaithersburg HELP and C-4 (an interfaith group serving the needs of the Colesville Community. They seek donations in the form of baby clothes, holiday toys, school supplies, and clothing in general).

The race is co-sponsored by our member congregations, Prince of Peace Lutheran Church and Shaare Torah Synagogue, with the inclusion of the Islamic Society of Washington. If our congregation or friends register 10 members on a team by August 25, we will receive free exhibit space. You must register by August 18 to guarantee your shirt size. Everyone is welcome to join in the fun. We hope to see you there!

Maryland Soccerplex Dairy Mooseum, 18028 Central Park Circle, Boyds MD 20841. Registration August 14-September 3 - \$35. Online registration closes 8:00 p.m. on Sunday, Sept. 3. For further information or to volunteer please visit <https://mocointerfaith5k.org/participate/>.