Eucharistic Holy Hour: Join us in prayer on June 9th from 12:30PM—3:00PM at Our Lady of Lourdes for the intentions of the men being ordained and an increase in vocations to the Priesthood. Join your fellow parishioners and come pray in front of the Blessed Sacrament.

Memorial Day at Catholic Cemeteries

“We are called to remember everyone, even those whom no one remembers,” says Pope Francis. “We remember those who sacrificed their lives to serve others. We especially entrust to the Lord those who have left us during the past year.” On Memorial Day, come offer a spiritual work of mercy and pray in loving memory of family, friends, and fellow citizens who have given their lives for our freedom and now experience their destiny in the love of Christ. A special Outdoor Memorial Day Mass will be held on Monday, May 29th on the sacred ground of the Catholic cemeteries of the Archdiocese of Washington. Mass will be celebrated at 10am by Bishop Mario Dorsonville at All Souls Cemetery, 11401 Brink Rd., Germantown, MD (301-428-1995) and Bishop Barry Knestout at Gate of Heaven Cemetery, 13801 Georgia Ave., Silver Spring, MD (301-871-6500).

A Letter From the Pastor

As a young boy in the mid-1970s, I remember a Sunday Mass at our parish, Saint Louis in Clarksville, Maryland. I believe it was the pastor, Father Sauerwein, who preached with great passion against the prospect of receiving Holy Communion in the hands. Some of you may recall that until that time the Blessed Sacrament could only be received on the tongue. I cannot tell what he said, but his fervent distress is memorable. The Church in our country had just been granted permission for this option. Father finished conceding that as much as he disapproved of this innovation he would have to go along with it.

Of course, when it came time for Communion I walked forward, lifted up my hands, and received in the new way. This not out of defiance, but curiosity. Getting back to the pew I remember my father, who had been behind me in line, whispering, “You’re brave.”

I thought of this incident recently while reading about a homily given by the bishop of Madison Wisconsin at the Holy Week Chrism Mass with the priest of his diocese. He spoke of what he sees as a “sacrilegious tendency to reduce the Holy Mass to a simple convivial meal, the celebration of a profane feast, the community’s celebration of itself.” He concluded his homily appealing to his priests to strongly encourage their parishioners to begin receiving Communion on the tongue so as to increase “reverence” for Christ in the Eucharist.

What do you think? Some contend that evidence does not support that it was ever the common practice in the Church to directly touch the Eucharist by hand. Of all the Apostolic Faiths (such as the Eastern Orthodox churches) that share our belief in the Real Presence, no others do so. It is even noted that in times past at a Jewish ritual meal, the morsel of food into the mouth of his guests, a special sign of his providence and care.

I have no doubt that most who come forward with open hands do so with true belief and sincere respect. At the same time, our posture and pose serve as an internal reminder and external statement of faith that highlight and teach that there is something, Someone, extraordinary before us. I am long convinced that good Father Sauerwein was on to something.

- Msgr. Edward Filardi
Socrates once said that the unexamined life is not worth living. While Christians certainly can’t say that without qualification, we can take the germ of truth from that quotation, namely, that we ought to reflect on our lives. Life is not just a series of things that happen to us, or a series of things that we do, like constantly flowing stream where it’s just one thing after another. No, our life is a story; in fact, it’s a love story. God Himself should be the main character of the love story of every human life. Knowing us from all eternity; and freely choosing to create us, He has given us a share in His own divine life through the gift of sanctifying grace. Our lives should not be about us, but about God.

In the Song of Songs, Our Lord is the bridegroom who seeks after our souls, longing to unite them to Himself. The soul of each man and woman is meant to respond, in love, to her divine Spouse. The Lord is the main character in this great romance, as Saint John tells us: “In this is love: not that we have loved God, but that He loved us.” What great joy we find in this simple affirmation: God loves me.

Our response of love toward God necessarily entails a love of one another. How could we fail to love our neighbor, whom God loves so dearly? This is why Jesus tells us that to love means keeping the ten commandments. The commandments are a guide that God gives us to show us how to love. Keeping the commandments is not the goal of our love story; it is the minimum. We can always love more. If we fail to keep the commandments, then we have failed to respond to God and our neighbor in love.

In the sacrament of Confession, God, by a brand new and wondrous initiative of grace, is willing to restore us to life, even when we have lost the life of grace through mortal sin. We see how God seeks us, longing to unite our souls to Himself.

One day, our love story—as far as this life is concerned—will come to an end. Yet, if we are united to Christ in love in this life, we will also be united to Him in love forever in heaven. This is the true goal of our lives, eternal rest and union with our Beloved.

(Taken from: Homiletic & Pastoral Review © Ignatius Press April 2012; Love Alone Lives by Father Dylan Schrader)

**Caritas Counseling Center**

Caritas Counseling Center, a ministry of Saint Luke Institute, offers confidential, professional, and compassionate therapy for individuals, couples, and groups. They understand the importance of faith and will assist you with recovery from grief, depression, stress, difficult relationships, and more. For more information, please contact Dr. Crystal Taylor-Dietz, director, at 301-431-6865, or visit caritas-sli.org. Calls are confidential. Caritas centers are located in Silver Spring, MD and Towson, MD.

**World Youth Day UNITE**

All young adults and families are invited to World Youth Day UNITE taking place on Saturday, July 22. It will feature artists Audrey Assad and Tony Melendez, TED-style talks by dynamic Catholic bishops, and opportunities for Confession and Adoration. A Vigil Mass will be celebrated by Cardinal Donald Wuerl, Archbishop of Washington. The festival theme this year, chosen by Pope Francis, is “The Mighty One Has Done Great Things for Me and Holy is His Name.” The event will take place at the Saint John Paul II National Shrine in Washington, DC (3900 Harewood Rd., NE) from 11:30am-10pm. Register online at www.wydownite.com/register.

**Our Lady of Fatima: 100th Anniversary**

To mark the 100th anniversary of the apparitions of the Blessed Virgin Mary in Fatima, Portugal, the Catholic Standard is sponsoring a pilgrimage to the holy site on the exact date of the famous “miracle of the sun.” The Marian shrines pilgrimage from October 11-20 also includes visits to Lourdes, Guadalupe, Zaragoza, and Madrid. Call 1-800-777-7432 for details.

**Trinity Chamber Orchestra** presents “20th Century Melting Pot” in music on Sunday, June 11th at 4:30PM. Please join us for our last concert of the season featuring music from Gershwin, Dvorak and Copland. For ticket information visit www.trinitychamberorchestra.org. Tickets can be purchased in advance or at the door.

**News From Our Blue Ribbon School**

Congratulations to Ms. Chelsey Hipp, our Teacher of the Year! Ms. Hipp was honored at the Knights of Columbus Teacher Appreciation Night last week. Ms. Hipp teaches Kindergarten.

**Coming Up:**

- Our eighth grade students are preparing for graduation and the world of high school! They went on a camping trip/retreat with Mr. Long, Mr. Dwyer, and Ms. McGann. They are looking forward to their Award Ceremony and Luncheon on May 31st, and of course to the Graduation Mass on June 1st at 7:00pm. We are proud of our graduates, and grateful for the many contributions they have made to their school community. We look forward to hearing about all the wonderful things they will do in high school and beyond.

- We still have openings in our Little Group, 3-year-old-program. Contact the school office at 301-654-5376, for a tour and more information.

- A Long Summer Camp will be operating again at Lourdes, beginning on Monday, June 13th. Visit their website at www.alongsummer.net for more information.
9th Annual Quo Vadis Camp
This event for young men in high school will be held on July 16-19 at Mount St. Mary's Seminary in Emmitsburg, MD. The four-day camp includes daily Mass, prayer, talks, sports, and much more. Bus transportation is available. For information and registration, visit www.dcpriest.org. Questions? Contact the Office of Priest Vocations at 202-636-9020 or vocations@adw.org.

Ministry to the Elderly & Homebound: If a parishioner is ill or unable to attend church and would like to receive the Eucharist, please call our coordinator, Margaret Carroll at 301-325-6398.

Registration: It is important that you register in the parish since baptisms, weddings, Godparent & Confirmation sponsorship certificates and other parish services require registration. Please contact the office at 301-654-1287 to request a parishioner registration card.

Sacrament of Matrimony: Please contact a parish priest to arrange a meeting and to begin SIX MONTHS OF PREPARATION. Any Catholic residing in the parish is eligible. Living together before marriage is sinful, a cause of scandal, and results in a greater likelihood of divorce. Those cohabitating will be asked to live separately before marriage, and to return to the regular practice of their faith.

Social Responsibility
The OLOL Sunday Meal for the Poor and Homeless feeds 30-40 people every Sunday in the school cafeteria. If you’d like to volunteer to help serve the meal, please sign up at http://vols.pt/3XNY26 or send an email to OLOLHomelessDinner@gmail.com. The online sign up process is mandatory – you MUST sign up before showing up to volunteer.

Various churches and synagogues in the area take turns providing food each week, but if OLOL parishioners want to provide food too on an ad-hoc basis, they’re more than welcome. Anything you’d eat our guests would eat too. The food should be ready to eat, but it can be reheated on site if necessary. Bring the food to the cafeteria from 4:15-4:45 on Sundays.

Volunteers also operate a “clothes closet” where our guests can obtain donated clothing. If you have non-dressy adult clothes you don’t wear any more, please consider donating them to the clothes closet. Bring donations to the clothes closet (located down the long hallway opposite the main entrance to the cafeteria) from 4:30 to 5:30 on Sundays, or call Dan Keen at 301-564-0077 to arrange a pick-up at your home. Please, nothing stained or torn.

Sick in Our Parish: Please pray for our sick brothers and sisters.

Deceased in Our Parish: Please pray for our deceased brothers and sisters, especially Kaley Smith.

Finance/Administration
May 7, 2017 Offertory: $13,948
May 14, 2017 Offertory: $9,427

Second Collection For May 3/4: Trinity Dome Appeal: The Archdiocese of Washington has scheduled a national collection for the Trinity Dome, the magnificent mosaic that will complete the construction of the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception. Please find envelopes in the pews and place them in the collection baskets. Thank you for your participation.

Poor Box: For the month of May the poor box collection will be donated to Isaiah’s Promise/St. Joseph’s House. Isaiah’s Promise provides families who decide to carry to term after receiving a severe or fatal prenatal diagnosis, support, information, hope, and friendship. Please support women making the courageous choice for life.

Bulletin Deadline: Please have your printed notices at the Rectory office by Monday at 3:00 PM. The email address is: office@bethesdalourdes.org.

Catholic Charities: The social service arm of the Church, welcomes you to share mercy by serving people in need. Come make a difference in someone’s life – and your own! Sign up for a one-time event or make a bigger commitment: be a mentor to someone returning from prison or welcome people arriving at a shelter for the night. Get information at www.CatholicCharitiesDC.org/volunteer.

Moving In, Out or Within the Parish?
Please help us keep our records up-to-date by filling out this form and dropping it in the collection basket or rectory mail slot. Thank you.

NAME: ________________________________
ADDRESS: ____________________________
PHONE: ______________________________
EMAIL: ________________________________

____ I/we am/are new to the parish. Welcome!
____ Change of address within the parish. Thank you!
____ I/we am/are moving out of the parish. God be with you!
Noticias en Español – Séptimo Domingo de Pascua – Mayo 28, 2017

ACTIVIDADES PROGRAMADAS EN NUESTRA PARROQUIA PARA LAS PROXIMAS SEMANAS:

1. “ Primeras comuniones”: El sábado 13 de Mayo se realizó la Misa de Primera comunión para los niños que recibieron la catequesis en el Programa de Educación Religiosa en español. Fue hermoso ver como cada uno iba pasando a recibir a Cristo por primera vez. Fue una gran fiesta siendo Cristo la gran razón y lo verdaderamente importante.

2. Los invitamos a participar en el V Encuentro Parroquial Nacional Hispano el domingo 11 de junio de 8:00am a 1:00pm en la cafetería de la Escuela seguido de la Santa Misa*. Si desea mayor información o le gustaría ayudar en la organización del encuentro favor de contactar a Nancy Shifter nancy.shifter@gmail.com. TODOS SON BIENVENIDOS!!

TODO LO MIO ES TUYO Y TODO LO TUYO ES MIO

El Evangelio de este domingo contiene un mensaje importante para todos nosotros. Jesús pide al Padre que nos consagre en la verdad y nos proteja del mundo.

Si quisiéramos una síntesis de los requisitos para alcanzar la vida eterna, está aquí: que te conozcan a ti, el único Dios verdadero y al que tú has enviado, Jesucristo. Si conocer a Dios es el primer interés de los creyentes, conocer a Jesús debe ser el primer interés de los cristianos.

Jesús bien sabía que una vez que le conociéramos de verdad, no podríamos dejar de amarlo y de seguirlo. Porque no se puede conocer a Jesús sin caer presa de su amor. No se puede conocer a Jesús sin contagiarse de la esperanza que infunde su mensaje. No se puede conocer a Jesús sin creer en su Pasión, Muerte y Resurrección.

Alguien ha dicho que un creyente es un enamorado, uno que se ha enamorado de Dios. Si le pides que te dé razones de su amor, quizá no logre hacerlo, no porque no tenga razones o no las haya pensado, sino porque tendrá tantas que se le amontonarán en la boca y no podrá salir. Porque no se puede conocer a Jesús sin caer presa de su amor. No se puede conocer a Jesucristo sin contagiarse de la esperanza que infunde su mensaje. No se puede conocer a Jesús sin creer en su Pasión, Muerte y Resurrección.

Por esto, Jesús encomienda los cristianos al cuidado del Padre. Él sabe que llega su hora. Pero no quiere dejarnos desamparados. Pide al Padre por aquellos que creerán en el Evangelio a lo largo de toda la historia. Por todos los que conociendo lo que Dios ha hecho por el hombre le corresponderán con una vida de auténticos discípulos: amando al prójimo, como Dios nos ha amado. A pesar de que el mundo nos ignore, nos desprecie y nos tache de ilusos e idealistas, cuando rememos contra corriente, recordemos que Jesús ha rogado por nosotros, simplemente porque somos suyos.

Adaptadocatholicnet.

Por favor actualice su información - Recorte el siguiente formato de inscripción y entréguelo en la Misa junto con la colecta. Recuerde que los datos que usted nos suministre son confidenciales.

- Soy (somos) nuevo(s) en la Parroquia. Queremos inscribirnos☐.
- Llevo (tenemos) ya tiempo asistiendo a esta parroquia y queremos inscribirnos☐.
- Estoy (estamos) inscritos y esta es la nueva dirección☐.
- Ya no podré volver a esta parroquia. Favor eliminar mi nombre de la lista☐.

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