

A Lenten Reflection

"Who, then, is my neighbor?" (Luke 10:29) Jesus' parable of the Good Samaritan (Luke 10:25-37) challenges our idea of who is a stranger. As followers of Jesus, we know that it is not acceptable to care only for people who are like ourselves. Our faith calls us to look beyond borders and see all people as neighbors. *"If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you?"* (Luke 6:32). Who is a neighbor? Jesus never directed us to like everyone, but he raised love of neighbor to the level of a Commandment. And he doesn't allow us to be selective. The snarky coworker or unpleasant older person who lives next door? Both are neighbors we are asked to love. Customers who harp on the tiny mistakes we make, or relatives who love to point out our flaws? Neighbors. People from around the world whose values and behavior are foreign to us? Neighbors, all. What is neighbor love? It starts by seeing those around us – truly looking past the outer appearance and learning names, personal stories, circumstances. Praying for others – whether we know them personally or not – is a powerful way to love them. Neighbor love isn't blind to others' sin but it requires focusing on our own first. We love neighbors best by letting them witness in us the fullness of a life in Christ.

Lenten Schedule:

Confessions during Lent:

Monday-Friday from 11:30-11:55am
Wednesday evenings from 7:00-8:00pm
Saturdays from 11:00-11:55am and 4:00-4:45pm.

Stations of the Cross: Fridays at 11:00am and 6:30pm.

Lenten Movie Night: Friday evenings at 7:15pm in the library/media center.

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament:

Fridays from 12:30-3:00pm.

Palm Sunday (Sunday, March 25):

Masses will follow the regular schedule
Palms will be blessed at all the Masses this weekend.

Holy Week Schedule:

Holy Thursday: March 29th: Mass of the Lord's Supper:
7:30pm (NO DAILY MASSES)

Good Friday: March 30th: 11:00am confessions,
12:00pm Stations of the Cross (English), 5:00pm Lord's
Passion, 7:00pm Stations of the Cross (Spanish), 8:00pm
Lord's Passion (Spanish) (NO DAILY MASSES)

Holy Saturday: March 31st: 11:00am Confessions,
8:00pm Easter Vigil Mass (NO DAILY MASSES)

Easter Sunday: April 1st: Masses at: 7:30, 9:00, and
10:30am, 12:00 Noon, and 1:30pm (Spanish).

Masses for the Week

Monday, March 19th (G. reading: Mt. 1:16, 18-21, 24a)		
7:00 AM	+ Joe Gannon	Fr. Barbieri
8:00 AM	Int. John & Cecilia Wan	Fr. Barbieri
12 NOON	Int. Jerry Collins	Msgr. Filardi
Tuesday, March 20th (Gospel reading: Jn. 8: 21-30)		
7:00 AM	+ Ruth Van Orsdel	Msgr. Filardi
8:00 AM	Int. Liliانا Shirvanian	Msgr. Filardi
12 NOON	Int. Jane & Bill Brockman	Fr. Barbieri
Wednesday, March 21st (Gospel reading: Jn. 8: 31-42)		
7:00 AM	+ Maria Ascui	Fr. Barbieri
8:00 AM	+ Margaret D. O'Connor	Fr. Barbieri
12 NOON	+ Carlos Arias	Msgr. Filardi
Thursday, March 22nd (Gospel reading: Jn. 8: 51-59)		
7:00 AM	Int. Onyioza Maris Asuku	Msgr. Filardi
8:00AM	+ Eleanor DeLorenzo	Msgr. Filardi
12 NOON	+ Rev. Thomas Pollard	Fr. Barbieri
Friday, March 23rd (Gospel reading: Jn. 10: 31-42)		
7:00 AM	+ Joseph Can Ngoc Pham	Fr. Barbieri
8:00 AM	+ Neil Kimmel	Fr. Barbieri
12 NOON	Int. Judy DeSzily	Msgr. Filardi
Saturday, March 24th (Gospel reading: Jn. 11: 45-56)		
8:00 AM	+ Donald Ventrudo	Msgr. Filardi
11:00-11:55 AM	Confessions	Fr. Barbieri
12 NOON	+ Joseph Can Ngoc Pham	Fr. Barbieri
4:00-4:45 PM	Confessions	Msgr. Filardi
5:00 PM	+ Ellen Wycoski	Fr. Barbieri
Sunday, March 25th (Gospel reading: Mk. 11:1-10)		
7:30 AM	Priest's Intentions	Msgr. Filardi
9:00 AM	People of the Parish	Fr. Barbieri
10:30 AM	Priest's Intentions	Msgr. Filardi
12 NOON	Priest's Intentions	Msgr. Filardi
1:30 PM	Priest's Intentions	Fr. Barbieri

Good Friday Collection on March 30, 2018: Support Christianity in the Holy Land: The challenges for Christians living in the Holy Land are great. Because of the insecurity and violence in many areas of the Middle East, many have chosen to leave, depleting the Christian faith communities and making the need of families that remain all the more urgent. The Pontifical Good Friday Collection supports the ministry of the Holy Land Franciscans, who for 800 years have nourished Christians in the Holy Land with presence, care, and service. Last year's collection supported 29 parishes, four homes for orphans, and three academic institutions. It helped keep schools open for over 10,000 students and supported 120 men preparing to be priests or brothers. It also provided senior care facilities, created 1,500 jobs for Christians, and preserved 54 shrines connected with the life of Jesus and the prophets. Please give generously to this collection. Holy Land Christians, together with all the clergy and religious working there, deeply appreciate your help, keeping the Christian faith alive in the land where it was born.

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

Office of Religious Education
301-654-5954
Fifth Sunday of Lent

You, Lord, are our Father, we the clay, you the potter. (Isaiah 64: 8) In the year 300 AD; it said this: "Whatever was the form and expression given to the clay by the Creator, Christ was in His thoughts as one day to become man." When God fashioned us He was trying to create something, from the model in His head. That model is Jesus Christ His Son. The more He could make us like Jesus Christ, the more would we be that perfect work which He wanted to have.

All through life He is trying to fashion us, shape us, model us, so increasingly we become more like Jesus Christ, with the same values, the same reactions, the same way of doing and serving. Because surely if we always need, as we do, a standard to reach, there can be no standard other than Jesus Christ. This does not mean just having virtues; it does not mean just being a nice person. It is a terrifying ideal, because it means, too, that sometimes we shall suffer as He suffered, be despised, be criticized, be written off, have everything said against us. How often we forget that if we are going to be true followers of Jesus Christ, it will demand making sacrifices, facing problems and difficulties.

Today, the Christian witness is badly needed. If we, the baptized Christians, do not rise to the occasion, then we fail as Christians to shape society and mold it as God wishes it to be. We are all the work of that potter's hand, who fashions the clay: God Our Father, lovingly and with pride, fashioning us. God loves us and loves to work on us. Then He knows that through us, the power of Christ can transform, not only us but the world in which we live. That is the destiny of a Christian community.

(Taken from: The Mystery of the Incarnation, Witness: as Followers of Christ, by Cardinal Basil Hume; Paraclete Press © 1999, 2000; pg. 158, 159)

Wed. March 21: Confirmation Retreat.

Adult Bible Study: Wisdom:

Join us at Our Lady of Lourdes as we study Wisdom: God's Vision for Life. In this class, Wisdom will teach you how to use scripture to actively seek out sound guidance and increase your sense of peace in everything from friendships to finances, from making decisions to attaining peace of mind. This 8 week DVD session meets on Mondays beginning March 5, 2018 from 7:00pm-8:00pm in the Religious Education Office at OLOL lower level of the school. Questions and group discussion follow the DVD. The DVD instructors for this class are Jeff Cavins and Thomas Smith of Ascension Press. There is no cost for the class but there is a minimal fee for the optional workbook. To register call the Religious Education Office: [301-654-5954](tel:301-654-5954).

Peaceful Prayer Vigil Lead by Fr. Stephen Imbarrato, Priests for Life: The prayer vigil will begin on the sidewalk in front of Leroy Carhart's abortion clinic in the Wildwood Medical Center located at 10401 Old Georgetown, RD on Friday, March 23rd from 7:00 - 9:00pm. For more information go to 40daysforlife.com/Bethesda or contact Jill Perry at 301-924-3838 or socialconcerns@mothersetonparish.org.

2018 Annual Jubilarian Mass:

Cardinal Donald Wuerl will celebrate the annual Jubilarian Mass honoring couples married 25, 30, 35, 40, 45, 50 and 51+ years on Sunday, June 17, 2018 at 2:00pm at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception. Please use the sign-up forms in the back of the church to register. Names of jubilarians need to be turned in to the parish office Monday, April 16.

St. Elizabeth Spring Bereavement Series:

The spring bereavement support group will be an evening series. It will run for eight consecutive Wednesday evenings from 7:00 - 8:30pm beginning April 11th and ending May 30, 2018. This will be the final bereavement support group series before the summer break. A fall series which will begin in September 2018. To register, contact Deacon Kevin Byrne at kevin_byrne@verizon.net or Claudia McAuliffe at icmm@verizon.net.



Save the date for the 9th Annual Our Lady of Lourdes Lions' Roar Kate Truax 5K/1K on Saturday, April 28, 2018!

The family-friendly festivities begin on Friday, April 27th with the Pre-Race Spaghetti Dinner sponsored by Ledo's Pizza. The event begins with the race/walk on Saturday morning at 9:00am. After the race/walk, we will host a picnic with delicious breakfast and lunch food, enjoy music from a DJ, award prizes for top race finishers in each age category, select the winners of our raffle baskets, enjoy moon bounces and more! All proceeds from the event will benefit the Our Lady of Lourdes Annual Fund. The Annual Fund is used for structural improvements to our building, professional development for our teachers and tuition assistance for families who would not otherwise be able to afford a Lourdes Blue Ribbon education. The entire Lourdes community is invited to attend this fun event and to celebrate the life of our wonderful teacher, Ms. Kate Truax! Visit our school website at bethesda-lourdes.org for event details, to register for the 5K/1K and for information about becoming a Lions' Roar Sponsor! We hope to see you on the weekend of April 27-28! Thank you for supporting Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic School.

What it Means to be a Practicing Catholic:

- Confession at least once a year, preferably at Easter
- Communion once a year, at Easter
- Mass assistance on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation
- Marriage laws of the Church obeyed
- Fasting and Abstinence days appointed by the Church observed
- Contribute to the support of the Church, financially or otherwise

Finance & Administration:

March 10/11 2018 Offertory: \$11,938

Second Collection for March 25, 2018: None

Our March Poor Box will be going to a local Montgomery County Food Bank.

Easter Lily and Palm Cross Sale:

Pick up beautiful Easter lilies and palm crosses for your garden or yard, or donate them to the Franciscan Monastery of the Holy Land in honor of loved ones. Your order supports the gardens of the historic monastery. Details and online orders at www.fmgg.org and the monastery's Holy Land Gift Shop, 1400 Quincy St. NE, Washington, DC 20017. Pick up items on Palm Sunday Weekend, March 24-25. Sponsored by the Franciscan Monastery Garden Guild. Questions? Contact Joe Bozik, 1retrojoe@gmail.com or call 703-967-0958.

Way of the Cross Along the National Mall:

On Good Friday, March 30, 2018, the ecclesial movement Communion and Liberation will sponsor the Way of the Cross along the National Mall. Participants will congregate for the first station at St. Peter's Church on Capitol Hill, at 9:30am. Cardinal Wuerl will join the group at St. Peter's. After a station near the Capitol, the procession will follow the cross to a few stations along the National Mall and will end at the Washington Monument at 12:30pm. At each station, there will be readings from the Passion, a meditation, a reflection and hymns. All are invited. For more information, please visit www.wayofthecrossdc.com

Altar Flowers:

If you would like to donate the Altar Flowers for a special intention, a special occasion, or in memory of a loved one, please call the Parish Office or email sgutierrez@bethesdalourdes.org. The donation for the flowers is \$150.00.

Burial of Christ:

Experience the Holy Land on Good Friday with a recreation of the Burial of Christ ceremony held at the Church of the Holy Sepulchre in Jerusalem. The crucified Christ will be carried through the Franciscan Monastery of the Holy Land church in this service of song and prayer, then anointed and placed in the tomb (a full-size replica of the Tomb of Christ in Jerusalem). The monastery is at 1400 Quincy St. NE, Washington, DC 20017. More information and a schedule of Holy Week and Easter events: myfranciscan.org and 202-526-6800.

The Our Lady of Lourdes Sunday Meal for the Poor and Homeless:

feeds 30-40 people every Sunday in the school cafeteria. If you would 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 online before showing up to volunteer. (We do this to make sure we don't have more volunteers than we need.) 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. The food should be ready to eat, although food can be reheated on site if necessary. Bring the food to the cafeteria from 4:15-4:45 on Sundays (use the blue door on Pearl Street to the left of the school's main entrance). In conjunction with the Sunday meal, 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 our 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 contact Dan Keen at [301-564-0077](tel:301-564-0077) to arrange a pick-up at your home. Please, nothing stained or torn. Clothes don't have to be in season.

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 – Quinto Domingo de Cuaresma – Marzo 18 , 2018

"Si el grano de trigo no cae en tierra y muere, queda él solo; pero si muere, da mucho fruto"



Muy oportunamente nos hace meditar este texto del evangelio de San Juan en este quinto domingo de Cuaresma, mientras se acercan los días de la Pasión del Señor, en la que nos sumergiremos espiritualmente desde el próximo domingo, llamado precisamente domingo de Ramos y de la Pasión del Señor. Es como si la Iglesia nos estimulara a compartir el estado de ánimo de Jesús, queriéndonos preparar para revivir el misterio de su crucifixión, muerte y resurrección, no como espectadores extraños, sino como protagonistas juntamente con él, implicados en su misterio de cruz y resurrección. De hecho, donde está Cristo, allí deben encontrarse también sus discípulos, que están llamados a seguirlo.

El Señor mismo nos explica cómo podemos asociarnos a su misión. Hablando de su muerte gloriosa ya cercana, utiliza una imagen sencilla y a la vez sugestiva: "Si el grano de trigo no cae en tierra y muere, queda él solo; pero si muere, da mucho fruto" (Jn 12, 24). Se compara a sí mismo con un "grano de trigo deshecho, para dar a todos mucho fruto", como dice de forma eficaz san Atanasio. Y sólo mediante la muerte, mediante la cruz, Cristo da mucho fruto para todos los siglos. De hecho, no bastaba que el Hijo de Dios se hubiera encarnado. Para llevar a cabo el plan divino de la salvación universal era necesario que muriera y fuera sepultado: sólo así toda la realidad humana sería aceptada y, **mediante su muerte y resurrección, se haría manifiesto el triunfo de la Vida, el triunfo del Amor; así se demostraría que el amor es más fuerte que la muerte.**

Sin embargo, al mismo tiempo, mantiene su adhesión filial al plan divino, esto quiere decir: "Acepto la cruz", en la que se glorifica el nombre de Dios, es decir, la grandeza de su amor. También aquí Jesús anticipa las palabras del Monte de los Olivos: "No se haga mi voluntad, sino la tuya" (Lc 22, 42). Transforma su voluntad humana y la identifica con la de Dios. Este es el gran acontecimiento del Monte de los Olivos, el itinerario que deberíamos seguir fundamentalmente en todas nuestras oraciones: **transformar, dejar que la gracia transforme nuestra voluntad egoísta y la impulse a uniformarse a la voluntad de Dios.**

Este es el camino exigente de la cruz que Jesús indica a todos sus discípulos. En diversas ocasiones dijo: "Si alguno me quiere servir, sígame". No hay alternativa para el cristiano que quiera realizar su vocación. Es la "ley" de la cruz descrita con la imagen del grano de trigo que muere para germinar a una nueva vida; es la "lógica" de la cruz de la que nos habla también el pasaje evangélico de hoy: "El que ama su vida, la pierde; y el que odia su vida en este mundo, la guardará para la vida eterna" (Jn 12, 25).

Recordemos que quien sigue a Cristo y, por su amor, se pone al servicio de los hermanos: pierde la vida y así la encuentra. No existe otro camino para experimentar la alegría y la verdadera fecundidad del Amor: el camino de darse, entregarse, perderse para encontrarse.

Noticias:

Se recuerda que el 24 de Marzo del 2018 de 8.30 am a 12.30 pm. tendremos un lindo momento en nuestro Retiro de Cuaresma, todos están invitados a participar.

El viernes 30 de Marzo a las 7pm se celebrará el Vía crucis seguido de la misa en Misa en Español.

Si es nuevo o ha cambiado su información – Por favor 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.**

Por favor marque
con una según
corresponda

NOMBRE: _____

DIRECCION: _____ APTO: _____ CIUDAD: _____

CODIGO POSTAL: _____ TELEFONO: _____ CORREO ELECTRONICO: _____