

A Letter from Our Pastor

I read of another large study recently that affirms the benefits of active spiritual engagement. The results of these surveys do not usually surprise me, but I do find it interesting that there is a real interest in what I call the 'Science of Religion'. On the other hand, such reports are often pushed to the back page. So presuming permission, allow me to pass this along:

"Actively religious people are much more likely than those who are less religious to describe themselves as "very happy" according to a new poll by the Pew Research Center. In the United States, 36 percent of the actively religious describe themselves as "very happy," while only 25 percent of the inactively religious and 25 percent of the unaffiliated self-identify in this way, Pew revealed." "The trend linking greater happiness to more active religious practice held good for a remarkable 19 nations out of the 26 nations surveyed."

"Aside from being happier, the religiously active are also more engaged socially and civically, Pew discovered, with religious people being more likely to vote in elections and to join charitable organizations, including non-religious organizations, than the religiously inactive and unaffiliated. Pew's 2019 study linking religious practice and happiness corroborated results from earlier studies reporting similar results." "Out of three religious indicators employed - self-reported "religiosity," religious "affiliation," and service attendance - the latter showed a significantly greater correlation to increased happiness. The study showed that higher levels of church attendance "predict higher life satisfaction," even after accounting for how important religious faith is in people's lives."

So there you go. Despite real difficulties in our world, church, and hearts, happiness is a gift from God and is the fruit (along with other blessings) when we actively strive to live in Him. This should be no surprise.

- Msgr. Edward Filardi

Masses for the Week

| | | |
|---|------------------------------|---------------|
| Monday, February 18th (Gospel reading: Mk: 8: 11-13) | | |
| 7:00 AM | NO MASS | |
| 8:00 AM | + Conrad Lindeman | Fr. Barbieri |
| 12 NOON | Int. Renata Golden | Msgr. Filardi |
| Tuesday, February 19th (Gospel reading: Mk: 8: 14-21) | | |
| 7:00 AM | + Onyioza Maris Asuku | Msgr. Filardi |
| 8:00 AM | + Mary O'Connell | Msgr. Filardi |
| 12 NOON | Int. Fran & Veronica Yeatman | Fr. Barbieri |
| Wednesday, February 20th (G. reading: Mk: 8: 22-26) | | |
| 7:00 AM | + Onyioza Maris Asuku | Fr. Barbieri |
| 8:00 AM | Reparation for Sin | Fr. Barbieri |
| 12 NOON | Int. Margaret Lunden | Msgr. Filardi |
| Thursday, February 21st (Gospel reading: Mk: 8: 27-33) | | |
| 7:00 AM | + Onyioza Maris Asuku | Msgr. Filardi |
| 8:00AM | + Margaret O'Connor | Msgr. Filardi |
| 12 NOON | + Msgr. Thomas Duffy | Fr. Barbieri |
| Friday, February 22nd (Gospel reading: Mt. 16: 13-19) | | |
| 7:00 AM | + Joseph Can Ngoc Pham | Fr. Barbieri |
| 8:00 AM | + Onyioza Maris Asuku | Fr. Barbieri |
| 12 NOON | + Ellen Wycoski | Msgr. Filardi |
| Saturday, February 23rd (Gospel reading: Mk: 9: 2-13) | | |
| 8:00 AM | + Joseph Can Ngoc Pham | Fr. Barbieri |
| 11:00-11:55 AM | AM Confessions | Msgr. Filardi |
| 12 NOON | + Peter Rudnicki | Fr. Barbieri |
| 4:00-4:45 PM | Confessions | Fr. Barbieri |
| 5:00 PM | + Doris Kelly | Msgr. Filardi |
| Sunday, February 24th (Gospel reading: Lk. 6: 27-38) | | |
| 7:30 AM | People of the Parish | Fr. Barbieri |
| 9:00 AM | Priest's Intentions | Msgr. Filardi |
| 10:30 AM | Priest's Intentions | Fr. Barbieri |
| 12 NOON | Priest's Intentions | Msgr. Filardi |
| 1:30 PM | Priest's Intentions | Fr. Barbieri |

Monday, February 18th is President's Day and a Federal Holiday. The rectory office will be CLOSED and there will be NO 7:00AM MASS.



SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Office of Religious Education 301-654-5954

We are told that Saint Polycarp, Bishop of Symra, martyr, met at Rome the heretic Marcion in the streets, who resenting the fact that the Bishop did not take notice of him which he expected, said, 'Do not you know me?' "Yes", answered the saint, "I know you, the first-born of Satan." He had learned this abhorrence of those who adulterate divine truth from his master Saint John ...

Yet, Marcion had the true story-teller's gift. From the opening account of Polycarp's fellow martyrs to the final collection of his calcined (burnt) bones, the tale moves smoothly and swiftly without a wasted word. So vividly does he bring his scenes to life – the shrinking houseboy forced to guide the trackers to his master's hiding-place, the midnight arrest at the lonely country farm, the captured bishop serenely offering refreshments to his shamefaced captors – that we feel ourselves part of the drama. We flinch in sympathy when the old man barks (scrapes) his shins as he gets down from the police carriage, and admire his cheerful indifference to the hurt; and when prisoner and proconsul confront each other at last in the roaring circus, we share the pagan's bewilderment at the complete self-possession and calm rejoinders of the Christian. There is indeed something irresistibly attractive in the demeanour of this indomitable octogenarian – and the spell holds us, even to the final glimpse of the white-haired figure standing unscathed in the encircling flames 'like a loaf inside an oven'. The story has moved and thrilled readers in all ages; and we have the testimony of an eighteenth-century prelate that 'he knew not anything in all ecclesiastical antiquity that was more wont to affect his mind, and believed that no good Christian could be satisfied with reading it often enough'.

(Source: Early Christian Writings, The Apostolic Fathers; translated copyright © Maxstaniforth, 1968; All rights reserved.)

Sun. Feb 17: George Washington's Birthday/Presidents Day. No CCD Classes Holiday Weekend

Sat. Feb 23: Saint Polycarp's Feast Day

Thank you for Your Support of the Mustard Seed Communities:

We would like to thank all those who donated to our fundraiser in support of the Mustard Seed Communities of Jamaica. Your contributions will go directly towards the care of disabled and abandoned children. Please be assured of our prayers for you during our missionary trip with The Heights School in March. We are so grateful for your generosity. If you would like more information on the Mustard Seed Communities, please visit: <https://www.mustardseed.com/>.

With gratitude,

Max, Michael and Seamus Walsh

50th Anniversary of the Annual Appeal – A Time for Reflection:

The theme of the 2019 Appeal is "Our Faith. Our Hope. Our Mission." and is much different from a one-time special collection. It is a pledge campaign where you can make a gift, today, payable over ten months that will help support the ministries and mission of all our faith communities of the Church of Washington. Please find the Annual Appeal brochure and Frequently Asked Questions in your pew for your review. A gift to the Annual Appeal will touch the lives of thousands of people in a very positive way. As you review the work enabled by your contribution, please reflect on God's gifts to you. Our combined gifts not only signify our gratitude to God, they glorify Him by enabling the work of our archdiocese and give Him thanks for all He has given us. This year, you can support the Annual Appeal many different ways. Many of you may have received a mailing in January that you can respond to. You can also support the Appeal online at adw.org or text "Give" to (301) 231-1816. We will also be providing the opportunity to support the Appeal at Mass over the next couple of weekends. As in every year, 100% of your contribution to the Annual Appeal will be designated to the ministries and programs supported by the Appeal. Thank you for your prayerful consideration and generous response.

New Bible Study: "No Greater Love A Biblical Walk Through Christ's Passion":

To begin on **Monday, March 18th**.
Thousands sought Jesus during His life.
Only a few followed Him to Calvary.
What will you do?
More information to follow.



**Our Faith.
Our Hope.
Our Mission.**

**Join Us for a Powerful Story of
Faith, Hope, and Forgiveness:**

We hope you can join us on
**Tuesday, February 26th at
7:00pm** at Saint Andrew
Apostle Catholic Church in
Silver Spring to hear Rwandan
Genocide Survivor and
NEW YORK TIMES
Best-Selling Author,
Immaculee Ilibagiza's
moving story of the power of
prayer and the need for
forgiveness. For more
information and to reserve your
ticket please visit:
[https://standrewapostle.org/
immaculee-ilibagiza/](https://standrewapostle.org/immaculee-ilibagiza/).
Reserved tickets are \$10 or \$15 at the door.



**Morning of Recollection:
"Simon Peter ~ Our Call to Discipleship:"**

EVERYONE IS INVITED to a Morning of Recollection
offered by Fr. Kevin Regan, Pastor of Saint John
Neumann Catholic Church, Gaithersburg, and a Spiritual
Director at the St. John Paul II Seminary. The morning
will take place at St. Patrick's in Rockville and will
include celebration of Mass, Reflection, Adoration and
Confession.

DATE: February 23rd, 2019
TIME: 9:00am - 12:00 noon
PLACE: St. Patrick Catholic Church
4101 Norbeck Road
Rockville, MD

For more information, contact Maris Moriarty at
moriartym@adw.org or 202-636-9020.



That Man is You takes place at Lourdes on
Saturday mornings from 6:45-8:00am.
Please contact Paul Bizot at pbizotpe@aol.com or
301-648-5945, or just show up. More information at:
www.paradisusdei.org/that-man-is-you/.

Lourdes Anointing Mass:

The Federal Association of the Order of Malta cordially
invites the sick, disabled, and elderly of the Archdiocese
to receive the Sacrament of Anointing at a Lourdes
Anointing Mass on **Saturday, March 2nd, 2019** at
10:00am at Our Lady of Mercy Church in Potomac. Our
Lady of Mercy is completely accessible and there is
plenty of free parking. Members of the Order of Malta
will be present to help people throughout the morning.
There will be an anointing and a blessing with Lourdes
water for the sick, disabled and the elderly in
attendance. Family, friends, and caregivers are invited.
A light luncheon reception will be offered to everyone
after Mass in the Parish Hall. There is no charge for the
day. If you have any questions, please contact
Joan Glasgow at 301-807-7500 or at
glasgow778@gmail.com

**Support The Academy of the Holy Cross
Benefit Auction & Gala:
"The Masquerade - A Night to
Remember" on April 6, 2019:**

Please visit:
academyoftheholycross.ejoinme.org/2019ParishAds
to purchase a parish ad.

For **\$20 per family** each family member (with a
current AHC student, recent graduate, or alumni) can
add their name(s) to their Parish Ad. Each Parish Ad will
appear in the auction gala Catalog Program. This is a
great way for families to participate in the Auction Gala
and show your support of AHC.

**Spread the word! Please forward this email to any
AHC current students, alumni or family members --
even if they're not in your parish.**

Donation link:
academyoftheholycross.ejoinme.org/2019donations.

*The Masquerade
A Night to Remember*

Saturday, April 6, 2019
The Academy of the Holy Cross



2019 Annual Jubilarian Mass:

The annual Jubilarian Mass honoring couples married 25, 30, 35, 40, 45, 50 and 51+ years will be held **Sunday, June 23rd, 2019** 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 at **Friday, April 26th**.

Save the Date: Bethesda 40 Days for Life March 6th -April 14th:

Join our local 40 Days for Life campaign this Lent as we pray and witness for an end to abortion outside LeRoy Carhart's late-term abortion clinic at the Wildwood Medical Center, 10401 Old Georgetown Road. You are invited to attend our kick-off luncheon on **Saturday, March 2nd at 12:30pm** at Our Lady of Lourdes, featuring guest speaker Stephanie Schmitt from Students for Life of America. Details at: www.40daysforlife.org/Bethesda. Email Jill.gadwood@gmail.com for more info.

Put Your Pro-Life Beliefs Into Action:

The Gabriel Project assists needy women and women in crisis pregnancies in Montgomery County. Women volunteers



THE
GABRIEL
PROJECT

(especially bilingual Spanish speaking women) are needed to stay in touch with client mothers. This includes keeping in touch with them via phone or email during their pregnancy, bringing them needed items such as diapers, baby clothes, etc. that are provided by the Gabriel Project, and praying for them. The average time commitment would be approximately 1 - 4 hours per month (or less). Men are also needed to pick up donations once or twice per month. Daily prayer supporters are also needed. Donations of diapers, formula, and baby clothes are also appreciated. For more information, please call or text Toni Wohleber at (240) 882-9893, or e-mail Carmen Rojas at gccthompson@juno.com.

Healing Your Love: Tools for Overcoming Obstacles in Marriage:

A Christ-Centered Marriage Renewal Workshop for couples looking to reconnect, repair, and re-energize their marriage.

Date: Saturday, March 9th- Sunday, March 10th
(Not Overnight)

Details:

- A Christ-centered weekend retreat designed to nurture emotional closeness in your marriage. The workshop will offer a road-map for addressing sensitive issues, encourage healthy conversations framed in faith and guide you and your spouse toward forgiveness and re-bonding.
- Opportunities for confession, celebration of the mass, and renewal of Marriage Vows are all included in the schedule.

Cost: \$600 per couple

Register: <https://ourladyofbethesda.org/programs/marriage/three-stay-married-marriage-enrichment>.



OUR LADY of BETHESDA
RETREAT CENTER

Workshop for Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion:

A workshop for Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion (EMHC) in English will be offered on two more Saturdays, 9:00am -12:00pm, during this winter and spring: **February 23rd** at the Archdiocesan Pastoral Center (Hyattsville, MD); and **April 6th** at St. Matthias the Apostle Church (Lanham, MD). This workshop will instruct the faithful on how to serve effectively as an EMHC in the parish setting as well as when taking Holy Communion to the sick and shut-ins. It is intended primarily for those who wish to be certified as an EMHC in the Archdiocese of Washington, but it is open to all. A \$5 registration fee can be paid at the door.

Please RSVP by emailing liturgy@adw.org. If you have additional questions, you may call Maria Hamm in the Office of Worship at 301-853-4594.

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: sgolden@lourdesbethesda.net or ctoms@lourdesbethesda.net. The donation for the flowers is \$150.00.

Bulletin Deadline:

Please have your printed notices at the Rectory office or emailed to office@lourdesbethesda.net by **Monday at 3:00 PM.**

Ministry to the Elderly and Homebound:

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

Catholic School Open Houses:

Are you interested in finding the right Catholic school for you? Catholic schools instill a life-long love of learning in a safe and faith-filled environment. Take the first step by visiting an open house near you. Learn more at: adwcatholicschools.org.

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

Takes place every Sunday in the school cafeteria. If you would like to volunteer, please sign up at: <http://vols.pt/3XNY26> or send an email to OLOLHomelessDinner@gmail.com. Please bring food to the cafeteria from 4:15-4:45 on Sundays (use the blue door to the left of the school's main entrance).

Volunteers also operate a "clothes closet" where our guests can obtain donated clothing. (Please note we are only accepting men's clothing at this time.) Bring donations from 4:30 to 5:30 on Sundays, or contact Dan Keen at 301-564-0077 to arrange a pick-up at your home. Please, nothing stained or torn.

Finance & Administration:

"How shall I make a return to the Lord for all the good He has done for me?" (Psalm 116:12)



**Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time 2019
Offertory: \$9,353**

Second Collection for February 24th, 2019: None

Our February Poor Box will be going to the John S. Mulholland Family Foundation, Inc. It is an organization founded to aid in feeding the working poor of Washington, DC. Canned and packaged food are collected and delivered weekly and monetary contributions are used to purchase and deliver fresh produce, milk and eggs, poultry and meat. We also like to think we deliver hope and dignity. The Foundation is completely volunteer, with no paid staff or directors, relying solely on the generosity of our donors and supporters. Thank you in advance for your support.

Sign of Peace During Flu Season:

Because of the increase in cases of the flu this season, the priest may choose to forego the Sign of Peace during Mass. Please note you always have the choice to express the Sign of Peace through a bow or a wave.



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: _____

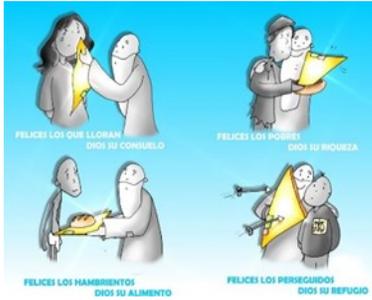
____ I/we am/are new to the parish. Welcome!

____ Change of address within the parish. Thank you!

____ I/we am/are moving out of the parish. God be with you!

Noticias en Español –Sexto Domingo del Tiempo Ordinario – Febrero 17, 2019

"Las Bienaventuranzas"



Se rinde un culto idolátrico al dinero. ¡Porque se ha globalizado la indiferencia!, se ha globalizado la indiferencia: a mí ¿qué me importa lo que les pasa a otros mientras yo defienda lo mío? Porque el mundo se ha olvidado de Dios, que es Padre; se ha vuelto huérfano porque dejó a Dios de lado.

Algunos de ustedes expresaron: Este sistema ya no se aguanta. Tenemos que cambiarlo, tenemos que volver a llevar la dignidad humana al centro y que sobre ese pilar se construyan las estructuras sociales alternativas que necesitamos. Hay que hacerlo con coraje, pero también con inteligencia. Con tenacidad, pero sin fanatismo. Con pasión, pero sin violencia. Y entre todos, enfrentando los conflictos sin quedar atrapados en ellos, buscando siempre resolver las tensiones para alcanzar un plano superior de unidad, de paz y de justicia.

Los cristianos tenemos algo muy lindo, una guía de acción, un programa, podríamos decir, revolucionario. Les recomiendo vivamente que lo lean, que lean las bienaventuranzas que están en el capítulo 5 de San Mateo y 6 de San Lucas, y que lean el pasaje de Mateo 25.

Si miramos a nuestro mundo vemos gentes que son pobres, que pasan hambre, que sufren, que son excluidos y proscritos... y a nadie se nos ocurre llamarlos dichosos ni tampoco ellos mismos se sienten como tales. Por el contrario, vemos gente rica, que disfruta de todas las comodidades posibles y goza el momento presente como si poseyera el mayor tesoro, y todo los miramos con cierta envidia y los calificamos como gente con suerte.

¿Cómo entender el Evangelio? ¿Dónde está el contraste? ¿Cómo explicar estas antinomias?

El Evangelio es una fuerza revolucionaria que trastorna la mentalidad de este mundo presente; las personas que se dejan alcanzar por su influjo se abren a nuevas dimensiones y son capaces de descubrir la riqueza del compartir, de gozar la alegría de la entrega, de experimentar la paz en medio del desconcierto...

Todos necesitamos hacernos pobres de ambicionar cosas superfluas; salir de nuestros egoísmos para acercarnos a los otros; reír con los que ríen y llorar con los que lloran. **(Discurso de S.S. Francisco a los participantes del Encuentro Mundial de los Movimientos Populares, octubre de 2014).**

Avisos:

- **El Domingo 2 de Diciembre se inició un grupo para niños mayores de 8 años que no hayan recibido el Sacramento del Bautizo. Las clases serán los domingos de 11:45 a 1:15 y termina con la Misa en español. Mayor información: Lourdes Baeza 301-412-5259 y María Virginia Rodríguez 301-602-4626.**
- **Dios sigue llamando hoy a más hermanos cristianos para encomendarles la tarea de catequizar, es decir, anunciar con su vida a Cristo. Nuestra Comunidad Hispana abre las inscripciones para todos los que sientan el llamado a catequizar y compartir su experiencia de Fe. Mayor información: Lourdes Baeza 301-412-5259 y María Virginia Rodríguez 301-602-4626.**
- **Todos los domingos de 11:45am a 1:15pm en la cafetería de la escuela: tenemos charlas, temas diversos, oración, Adoración al Santísimo Sacramento y confesiones el 1er y 3er domingo del mes. Mayor información con el Padre Rafael Barbieri, José Miguel Mejía y Margarita Rodezno.**

Por favor actualice su información - Recorte el siguiente formato de inscripción y entréguelo en la Misa junto con 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.**

NOMBRE: _____

DIRECCION: _____ APTO: _____ CIUDAD: _____

CODIGO POSTAL: _____ TELEFONO: _____ CORREO ELECTRONICO: _____