

A Letter from Our Pastor

I would like to share with you today a teaching on prayer from Saint John Chrysostom (349 – 407 AD). He was Archbishop of Constantinople, and among the most prolific authors in the early Christian Church. This comes from the breviary for the first Friday of Lent:

“Prayer and conversation with God is a supreme good: it is a partnership and union with God. As the eyes of the body are enlightened when they see light, so our spirit, when it is intent on God, is illuminated by his infinite light. I do not mean the prayer of outward observance but prayer from the heart, not confined to fixed times or periods but continuous throughout the day and night.

Our spirit should be quick to reach out toward God, not only when it is engaged in meditation; at other times also, when it is carrying out its duties, caring for the needy, performing works of charity, giving generously in the service of others, our spirit should long for God and call him to mind, so that these works may be seasoned with the salt of God’s love.

Prayer stands before God as an honored ambassador. It gives joy to the spirit, peace to the heart. I speak of prayer, not words. It is the longing for God, love too deep for words, a gift not given by man but by God’s grace. When the Lord gives this kind of prayer to a man, he gives him riches that cannot be taken away.”

Consider joining our six-week series on prayer, *Into the Desert*, beginning this Wednesday, from 7:15 - 8:15pm, in the Library Media Center.

- Msgr. Edward Filardi

Masses for the Week

Monday, March 11th (Gospel reading: Mt. 25: 31-46)		
7:00 AM	+ Onyioza Maris Asuku	Fr. Barbieri
8:00 AM	Int. Donnie Bowe	Fr. Barbieri
12 NOON	+ Therese & Andre Dussert	Msgr. Filardi
Tuesday, March 12th (Gospel reading: Mt. 6: 7-15)		
7:00 AM	+ Onyioza Maris Asuku	Msgr. Filardi
8:00 AM	Int. Genny Biglow	Msgr. Filardi
12 NOON	Special Intention	Fr. Barbieri
Wednesday, March 13th (G. reading: Lk. 11: 29-32)		
7:00 AM	+ Onyioza Maris Asuku	Fr. Barbieri
8:00 AM	+ Ellen Wycoski	Fr. Barbieri
12 NOON	Special Intention	Msgr. Filardi
Thursday, March 14th (Gospel reading: Mt. 7: 7-12)		
7:00 AM	+ Onyioza Maris Asuku	Msgr. Filardi
8:00AM	+ Al & Margaret Delacroix	Msgr. Filardi
12 NOON	+ Barbara Early Finnegan	Fr. Barbieri
Friday, March 15th (Gospel reading: Mt. 5: 20-26)		
7:00 AM	+ Onyioza Maris Asuku	Msgr. Filardi
8:00 AM	+ Don Bowe	Msgr. Filardi
12 NOON	+ Msgr. Thomas Duffy	Fr. Barbieri
Saturday, March 16th (Gospel reading: Mt. 5: 43-48)		
8:00 AM	+ Elisabeth Dussert-Fargier	Msgr. Filardi
11:00-11:55 AM	Confessions	Fr. Barbieri
12 NOON	Int. John Augenstein	Msgr. Filardi
4:00-4:45 PM	Confessions	Msgr. Filardi
5:00 PM	+ Robert McCullough	Fr. Barbieri
Sunday, March 17th (Gospel reading: Lk. 9: 28b-36)		
7:30 AM	Priest’s Intentions	Msgr. Filardi
9:00 AM	Priest’s Intentions	Msgr. Filardi
10:30 AM	People of the Parish	Fr. Barbieri
12 NOON	Priest’s Intentions	Msgr. Filardi
1:30 PM	Priest’s Intentions	Fr. Barbieri

The Priests’ schedule is subject to change without notice. Because of printing deadlines, Mass intentions requested less than two weeks ahead might not appear in the bulletin. Masses are offered for the names/intentions written in the parish intention book. The graces of each Mass are applied to the persons listed in the book regardless of whether they appear in the bulletin or are mentioned during the Mass.



We recently made parishioners aware of an email scam. Unfortunately these scams are continuing. If you receive a text or email asking for help that appears to be from Monsignor Filardi, please disregard it. Contact the parish office if you need any further assistance.

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

Office of Religious Education 301-654-5954

As we enter into Lent, there are many traditional spiritual exercises that come to mind: fasting, more intensive prayer, greater generosity, care for the poor, and sacrificing small pleasures. But there is a practice that is one of the most powerful in the spiritual life: *the exercise of memory*. Our sins result from our forgetting just how beautiful and life-giving a rightly ordered relationship with God can be: that it can be a source of peace and calm in the midst of stress or fear; that it can provide courage and fortitude in the face of despair or shame; that it can offer a joy and gratification which undermines any sense of resentment, anger, or greed. Sin is always a power-grab for something other than an authentic relationship with God—a remedy for fear, despair, or anger.

God himself highlights the power of memory when he establishes his covenant with Noah. The bow in the clouds will remind the Lord of his promise to never destroy the world again. Covenants are meant to be remembered. A covenant is not a law to be enforced by guardians of justice, but an intimate offer of self, the maker, to be received and embraced by another. When the covenant maker recalls his promise, the desire of his heart to which it gave rise is once more enflamed, and the relationship is deepened, not simply restored.

Losing sight of authentic love is one of the most damaging consequences of sin. Think of your “favorite” sin, the one you keep falling back into, time and time again. Can you recall what your life was like before it had such a strong grip on you? Whenever we find ourselves wrestling with habitual sin, it’s amazing how completely we can forget that life was ever otherwise, that we were once free and capable of other choices.

The exercise of spiritual healing is the exercise of remembering. Take some time during Lent to recall your memories of life “before your fall.” Don’t just treat those as dead memories. Invite the Lord to accompany you as you go back into those holier, more peaceful times, you shared an intimacy with God that you might not even have been aware of. Yet He was there; He was there in the authentic love, in the serenity, in the confidence, in the hope. Avail yourself of the grace that has never left, but has only been forgotten in the midst of life’s challenges. This Lent, let us give up our guilty pleasures, but don’t give up our memories. God won’t either.

(Source: Homiletic & Pastoral Review, Ignatius Press © 2018; “I will recall the covenant I have made,” by Father John Kartje, Rector of Mundelein Seminary)

In No Greater Love A Biblical Walk Through Christ’s Passion:

Filmed on location in the Holy Land is a five-part video series with Dr. Edward Sri, Fr. Mike Schmitz, Jeff Cavins, Jennifer Fulwiler, Curtis Martin, Teresa Tomeo, Fr. Josh Johnson, and Elizabeth Sri.

In this study, you will discover:

- *The Biblical background to each scene in Christ’s passion.
- *What was Jesus going through at each moment?
- *How did the Old Testament foretell of Christ’s death.
- *Why did Christ die for us? What did it accomplish?
- *What was the meaning behind of the tearing of the temple veil, the crowning with thorns, and other events during Christ’s Passion.
- *In this study you will **encounter God’s love** to the fullest. In the cross we see God fully revealed as “a lover with all the passion of love”.

Jesus doesn’t want our applause. He wants our hearts. Are you ready to draw closer to Jesus in his passion than you ever have before?

The series will begin on Monday, March 18th at 7:00pm in the Office of Religious Education. A Book and a Workbook will be available for \$24.95. To register, you may contact the Office of Religious Education at 301-654-5954.

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 Rd. Vigil hours are 7:00am-7:00pm daily. Please try to join your fellow parishioners during the **Our Lady of Lourdes Vigil Hours: Sundays from 1:00-2:00pm and Thursdays from 6:00-7:00pm.**

For more information contact Christa at cc65012@gmail.com.

2019 Lenten Schedule:

Thursdays in Lent:

The Our Lady of Lourdes Young Adult Fellowship will meet in the new room in the vestibule from 7:00 - 8:15pm.

Fridays in Lent:

There will be Stations of the Cross at 11:00am and 6:30pm and Lenten Movie Night at 7:15pm in the Library Media Center.

Wednesdays in Lent, starting March 13th:

The Light is On for You (Confessions) will be from 6:00 - 7:00pm and the *Into the Desert* Prayer Series will be at 7:15pm in the Library Media Center.



Young Adult Fellowship Prayer Group:

Please join the Our Lady of Lourdes Young Adult Fellowship prayer group on **Thursday evenings in Lent from 7:00 - 8:15pm** in the vestibule meeting space. The theme this Lenten season is prayer. If you wish, you may purchase the book, *Prayer for Beginners* by Dr. Peter Kreeft.

Study of Saints (SoS) Book Club:

Have you ever prayed for the intercession of a Saint? Often times when we do, we are invariably in need of something. Praying for the intercession of a Saint to ask Jesus/the Lord is like sending out an S.O.S. call for help. In this book club, we will read works by or about Saints. Through this Study of Saints (SoS), we will learn about the martyrs and religious who have dedicated their lives to God and learn what they are the Patron Saints of. By knowing our patron Saints, we can understand better whose constant intercession we can rely upon in sending our own SOS. **The group meets on the fifth Sunday of the month: March 31st, June 30th, September 29th, and December 29th from 3:00 - 4:00pm in the conference room in the new space.**

The first meeting on Sunday, March 31st will be on the book *A Holy Life: St. Bernadette of Lourdes* by Patricia McEachern.

The Ladies of Lourdes:

The next meeting will be on Tuesday, March 12th starting promptly at 7:30pm. It will be our Annual Lenten Evening of Recollection and will be held in the Church. Father Rafael Barbieri will conduct the evening with Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, a reflection, meditation, prayer, and will close with Benediction. Please join us as we walk and work together on our Lenten Journey 2019. For information please contact: Barbara Black at 301-652-0749 or fsbbob@verizon.net.

Into the Desert Prayer Series:

Is a 6-week video-based study on formed.org featuring Dr. Tim Gray. You will learn a powerful method of prayer, called *Lectio Divina*, and you will be able to put this prayer method into practice with daily meditations provided to you in a study guide.

The program will start Wednesday, March 13th at 7:15pm, with an episode to watch each week. As a parish family, our goal is to have every parishioner participant whether you are going through the study with your family in the home, or in a small group, or in a large group offered here in the parish.

Week One - Prayer:

Prayer is one of the most basic elements of a life of faith, but isn't always easy to do. Though we're taught that prayer is a "conversation," we often feel as if the conversation is completely one-sided. In this first session, Dr. Gray shows how the solution to the problem of prayer can be found in the Scriptures.

This week log in to formed.org and watch *Into the Desert, Episode 1.*



Catholic Singles of Greater Washington:

An organization for single Catholics, ages 21 to 65+, enjoying each other's company in a wide variety of social, religious, and cultural settings. Most members are 45 and older. Please find out more about us at: www.catholicssinglesofgreaterwashington.org or call Tricia at 301-460-9195.

Saint Patrick's Parish Mission and Penance Service:

March 23rd - 27th: Consoling the Heart of Jesus:

Fr. Jim McCormack will give a series of talks on how to make your spiritual life come alive, how to overcome difficulties through prayer, and how to fill every area of our lives with energy and purpose. **He will speak at all of the Masses at Saint Patrick's on March 23rd and March 24th, and give talks at 10:00am and 7:00pm on March 25th, March 26th, (including a 7:00pm penance service) and March 27th.**

Please call Saint Patrick's at 301-924-2284 for more information.

Put Your Pro-Life Beliefs Into Action:

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



THE
GABRIEL
PROJECT

Ancient Order of Hibernians and Knights of Columbus St. Patrick's Day Celebration:

The Ancient Order of Hibernians and the Knights of Columbus Council 2797 will host a St. Patrick's Day Celebration benefiting the Sisters Servants of the Lord on **Sunday, March 17th. The event will be held from 2:00pm to 7:00pm** at the Rock Creek Mansion at 5417 West Cedar Lane, Bethesda, Maryland. Irish food and beverages will be served and will be accompanied by games, whiskey tasting, Irish music and dancing, kids activities, and a silent auction. Tickets are required. The cost is \$35 for adults, \$15 for children, or \$100 for a family. Tickets at the door, if available, will cost more. For more information, contact Francis Moran at 301-412-4266 or fmoran.koc@gmail.com or Mike Horan at mike_horanbros@yahoo.com.



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.**

April Pilgrimage to Italy:

Father Christopher Pollard, Pastor of St. John's in McLean, Va would like to invite the members of Our Lady of Lourdes on a pilgrim's journey through some of the beautiful and ancient cities in Italy this April! Experience the saints and sacred sites, the food and culture of Rome, Assisi, Florence, Venice and holy locales in between.

There are three options to attend this pilgrimage:

- Option One:** Full Trip: April 23rd-May 6th,
- Option Two:** First Part of Trip: April 23rd-April 29th,
- Option Three:** Second Part of Trip: April 29th - May 6th.

For more information please visit:
www.JMJ Tours.com/StJohns.

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.

Deceased in Our Parish:

Please pray for our recently deceased brothers and sisters, especially: **Margaret Amess, Therese Femia, and Maria Chavez.**

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.

Please note that Fridays during Lent are obligatory days of abstinence. The norms concerning abstinence from meat are binding upon members of the Latin Catholic Church from age 14 onwards.

Please note that your regular financial contributions not only show that you are an active parishioner of Lourdes, but also are a crucial part of keeping the church up and running.
To register, please contact the rectory office at 301-654-1287, email [Claire Toms at ctoms@lourdesbethesda.net](mailto:ClaireToms@lourdesbethesda.net), or fill out the form on this page.

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)



**Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time
2019 Offertory: \$8,877**

Second Collection for March 17th, 2019: Church in the Developing World

Our March Poor Box will be going to the Lenten Food Drive. Bags for your donations will be provided the weekend of March 23rd - 24th and the collection for the food drive will take place the weekend of March 30th - 31st. Our collection will be donated to the Southern Maryland Foodbank. Please be generous with your contribution. You may also make a contribution to "Catholic Charities" with a note that it is for the food drive. Thank you for all you do to help the needy among us.

Collection for the Church in the Developing World:

On the weekend of March 16th - 17th, the Archdiocese of Washington will take up a second collection for the Church in the Developing World. This collection is directed toward the Church in Latin America, Central and Eastern Europe, and Africa. It supports evangelization, the education of clergy and laity, youth ministry, catechesis, social service programs, and church construction and renovation. The faithful in these areas are often limited in what they can contribute, so your generosity will provide support for areas of ministry we often take for granted in our archdiocese.

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 –Primer Domingo de Cuaresma – Marzo 10, 2019

"40 días de tentación y reflexión"



En la arena del desierto, adonde vivió Jesús cuarenta días, son protagonistas el fuego de la mañana y el frío de la noche, las dunas imprevistas y la ausencia de palmeras y caminos. Jesucristo, en la arena del desierto, sometido a las tentaciones, apareció menos Dios y más hombre. En la arena clavó sus ojos, desafió a los verdes y cómodos pasillos, quemó la luz oscura del demonio y le echó un pulso a la debilidad y al ejemplo. Su respuesta, pudo también haber sido ésta: "Aléjate de mí, Satanás, porque te has quedado sin esperanza".

Frente a tantos paraísos prometidos, la soledad se abre caminos en el pensamiento. Nadie está solo si tiene enfrente un deseo. La soledad de Jesucristo, como la de cualquiera, es imprescindible para fijar los sueños en el sitio de las realidades, para ir

preparando sólidamente las respuestas a lo que la vida nos propone, para desenmascarar al demonio que viene de bueno para invitarnos a su fiesta. Solo, sin ángeles, con el mar lejos y la arena cerca, Jesucristo, envuelto en seguridades, le dijo a Satanás, con otras palabras, que únicamente está solo el que hace daño.

Mientras tanto, en respuesta a tanta generosidad, a tanta fuerza, las piedras se fueron haciendo blandas, como panes, que luego serían su Cuerpo en las manos abiertas ofrecido. Las alturas terminaron en un escalón apenas; y las hambres, todas las hambres, se saciaron con exquisitas comidas y con bandejas de frutas que traen de secretos rincones los querubines.

La Cuaresma se inicia para los cristianos es un tiempo privilegiado para afinar la meta de nuestra vida y repasar nuestros objetivos. A veces resulta un repaso doloroso y que exige sacrificios.

Jesús también pasó por eso. Era un hombre como los otros. Poco a poco, reflexionando y orando ante su Padre, fue tomando conciencia de su misión. Dudó, buscó, fue tentado, a lo largo de su vida, y se impuso por la fuerza y el poder.

En el silencio del desierto, Jesús tenía necesidad de decirse a sí mismo, que no había venido a trabajar por cuenta propia, para su promoción personal. Sino que había sido enviado por su Padre para promover a sus hermanos: Liberarlos de todas las esclavitudes individuales y colectivas y hacerlos disfrutar de la dignidad de hijos de Dios.

El Evangelio de esta semana nos dice en forma condensada y simbólica, las luchas de Jesús por permanecer fiel a su misión.

En esta ocasión el Espíritu Santo nos conduce a nosotros también, al desierto, porque en ella Jesús nos habla a través de su Evangelio. Y nos pregunta a cada uno:

¿Por qué tipo de felicidad estás luchando?

¿Qué mundo estás construyendo?

¿Eres explotado de Dios, o eres su servidor y servidor de tus hermanos?

Avisos:

- **Invitamos a toda la comunidad a que participen en nuestro próximo Retiro de Cuaresma en Español el Sábado 23 de Marzo de 8:30am a 1:00pm en la Cafetería de la Escuela. ¡Nuestro Señor te estará esperando!**
- **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: _____

DIRECION: _____ APTO: _____ CIUDAD: _____

CODIGO POSTAL: _____ TELEFONO: _____ CORREO ELECTRONICO: _____