

A Letter from Our Pastor

Recently walking through an old historic cemetery, an elegant stone obelisk among many caught my eye. Going back to the 1850s, one side of this monument bore the faded name of the lone occupant below and on the other side at eye level were chiseled the words as if her final advice to future passersby like myself, "Cling to Jesus".

Right now I, and perhaps you, feel a heightened sense of heaviness. Perhaps it is due to the ongoing tension in our nations, concern for our Church, the state of our common culture, or the greater worry of what may come our way from China.

In the gospel this weekend we are told "Jesus saw the crowd". To me this means He saw vast humanity now and in the future. He sees into our hearts and knows our concerns. And so with them He "sat down." Will we sit with him? The beatitudes He teaches us today show us the way of blessing, of peace. They call us to something greater but not easier. They perhaps most importantly describe Jesus Himself. We never know what the future holds. But in faith and attitude, the very Body of Christ is held out to us today, and the answer is always the same, "Cling to Jesus".

Msgr. Edward Filardi

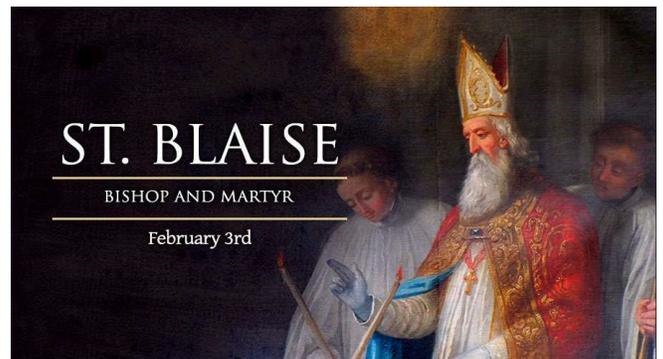
Masses for the Week

Monday, February 3rd (Gospel reading: Mk. 5: 1-20)		
7:00 AM	Holy Souls in Purgatory	Fr. Ubau
8:00 AM	+ Canses Smith	Fr. Ubau
12 NOON	+ Charles & Katherine O'Neil	Msgr. Filardi
Tuesday, February 4th (Gospel reading: Mk. 5: 21-43)		
7:00 AM	+ Joseph Can Ngoc Pham	Msgr. Filardi
8:00 AM	Int. Isabelle Carroll	Msgr. Filardi
12 NOON	+ Mr. & Mrs. William Abell	Fr. Ubau
Wednesday, February 5th (Gospel reading: Mk. 6: 1-6)		
7:00 AM	+ Kristinah Ayala	Fr. Ubau
8:00 AM	+ Rebecca Fields	Fr. Ubau
12 NOON	Int. Michael Reif	Msgr. Filardi
Thursday, February 6th (Gospel reading: Mk. 6: 7-13)		
7:00 AM	Int. Donald Villarubia	Msgr. Filardi
8:00 AM	+ Consuelo Landa	Msgr. Filardi
12:00 AM	Holy Souls in Purgatory	Fr. Ubau
Friday, February 7th (Gospel reading: Mk. 6: 14-29)		
7:00 AM	+ Joseph Can Ngoc Pham	Msgr. Filardi
8:00 AM	+ Robert McCullough	Fr. Ubau
12 NOON	Int. Cristinzio Family	Fr. Ubau
Saturday, February 8th (Gospel reading: Mk. 6: 30-34)		
8:00 AM	+ Lois Lewis	Fr. Ubau
11:00-11:55 AM	Confessions	Msgr. Filardi
12 NOON	+ Mary Anne McInerny	Fr. Ubau
4:00-4:45 PM	Confessions	Fr. Ubau
5:00 PM	+ Deacon John Shewmaker	Msgr. Filardi
Sunday, February 9th (Gospel reading: Mt. 5: 13-16)		
7:30 AM	Priest's Intentions	Fr. Ubau
9:00 AM	Priest's Intentions	Msgr. Filardi
10:30 AM	People of the Parish	Fr. Ubau
12 NOON	Priest's Intentions	Msgr. Filardi
1:30 PM	Priest's Intentions	Fr. Ubau

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.



Monday, February 3, is the Feast of Saint Blaise. There will be the blessing of throats at all of the daily masses.



FEAST OF THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

301-654-5954

The Presentation of the Lord

The birth of Jesus was revealed by three kinds of witnesses in three different ways—first, by the shepherds, after the angel's announcement; second, by the Magi, who were guided by the star; third, by Simeon and Anna, who were inspired by the Holy Spirit.

All who, like Simeon and Anna, preserve in piety and in the service of God, no matter how insignificant their lives seem in men's eyes, become instruments the Holy Spirit uses to make Christ known to others. In His plan of redemption God avails of these simple souls to do much good to all mankind (The Navarre Bible Commentary, Saint Luke 2: 25-38). Prayer which is a source of grace and a way of discerning God's will for us is consoling.

Simeon's canticle is a prophecy. It consists of two stanzas: the first (vv. 29-32) is an act of thanksgiving to God, filled with profound joy for having seen the Messiah. The second (vv. 31-32) is more obviously prophetic and extols the divine blessings which the Messiah is bringing to Israel and to all men. The canticle highlights the fact that Christ brings redemption to all men without exception—something foretold in many Old Testament prophecies (cf. Gen 22:18; Is 2:6; 42:6; 60:3; Ps 28:2).

The words Simeon addresses to Mary announce that she will be intimately linked with her Son's redemptive work. The sword indicates that Mary will have a share in her Son's sufferings; hers will be unspeakable pain which pierces her soul. Our Lord suffered on the Cross for our sins, and it is those sins which forge the sword of Mary's pain. Therefore, we have a duty to atone not only to God but also to His Mother, who is our Mother too.

CANTICLE OF SIMEON:

*Lord, now let thou servant depart in peace,
according to thy word;
for mine eyes have seen thy salvation which thou
hast prepared in the presence of all peoples, a
light for revelation to the Gentiles, and for the
glory of thy people Israel."*

*(Source: The Navarre Bible; Saint Luke; Text &
Commentaries)*

*The Canticle of Simeon is prayed after night
prayers each day by priests, religious and laity.*

Celebration of the Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes on February 11:



On Tuesday, February 11, our parish will celebrate the feast of Our Lady of Lourdes, our patron saint. Starting at 7:00pm in the church, this observance will include a Holy Hour with rosary, a meditation time, and Benediction. Weather permitting, we will then have a procession with candles and hymn singing to the outside grotto.

A reception will follow in the church vestibule, sponsored by the Ladies of Lourdes. Please consider bringing beverages, finger foods, and desserts with a French theme in honor of St. Bernadette. **All parishioners are encouraged to participate.** For details and questions, or to volunteer to help, please contact Barbara Black at fsbbob@verizon.net or 301-652-0749.

Save the Date for the Lenten Food Drive:

To benefit families in need, local parish food pantries and food banks. Bags will be distributed the weekend of **March 14 -15**. The Lenten Food Drive will take place the weekend of **March 21 - 22**.

Seamus Walsh, a sophomore at The Heights, will be speaking briefly at this weekend's Mass. He is returning to Jamaica for the second year in a row for a mission trip to Mustard Seed Communities where he will help with building improvements to the facility and caring for the children, most of whom are severely disabled. Not only your financial support but your prayers are greatly appreciated. To learn more or to make a donation, please visit:
https://secure3.convio.net/mseed/site/TR/MissionTrip/General?px=1219169&pg=personal&fr_id=3694

From Centro Tepeyac:

Thank you for your generous donation of \$5,722 worth of material donations to Centro Tepeyac during the 2019 Fiscal Year. We are so happy to report that thanks to donors like you we finished the year in the black. Several significant stats include: 459 Pregnancy tests performed, 416 total number of pregnancy tests, 52 limited ultrasound exams performed, and 67 verified abortion minded women who changed their mind after counseling and carried to term. Thank you again for your generosity.

***Weekly Rosary with Meditations by
Saint John Paul II
Saturdays at 12:45pm:***

Location:
Saint John Paul
National Shrine
3900 Harewood Rd NE
Washington, DC 20017



For more information visit: www.jp2shrine.org.

Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend:

Just as Mary and Joseph took Jesus up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord, present your marriage to the Lord. Strengthen, renew, and rekindle your marriage sacrament by attending a Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend on February 28 – March 1, 2020. The weekend is in College Park, MD. Give your marriage a Valentine's gift you won't forget! Apply at: moments4marriage.org. **Seats are still available. Please apply as soon as possible.** For more information leave a message at 301-541-7007.

Intergenerational Convocation:

Please join us for an intergenerational convocation at the Montgomery County Executive Office Building Auditorium, 101 Monroe Street, Rockville on **March 21, 2020 from 8:15 am - 1:00pm.** All parishioners are invited as the Justice and Advocacy Commission and Catholic Charities welcome you to a discussion of how we can better address the needs of all members of the county, particularly through our parishes, schools, and senior living facilities to inform parishes about the benefits of engagement across generations. For more information or to RSVP, contact leah@empoweringtheages.org or call 301-476-0186.

***The Order of Malta Invites you to Attend
Lourdes Anointing Mass:***

***For the Sick, Disabled, Elderly
and their Companions:***



**Taking place on Saturday,
March 7, 2020 at 10:00am** at Our Lady of Mercy Church, 9200 Kentsdale Drive Potomac, MD. 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.

Complimentary lunch to follow in the Parish Hall. For more information please contact Joan Glasgow at 301-807-7500 or glasgow778@gmail.com.

***Second Annual Seminarian Support Knights
of Columbus Cash Bingo and Dinner:
Friday, February 21:***

Mother Seton Parish Center doors open 5:00pm for Dinner, Bingo starts at 7:00pm. Over \$1500 in cash prizes! Admission is \$25 per player with an extra door prize ticket if paid by February 14, \$30 per player after February 14 (if not sold out again). Admission includes a door prize raffle ticket, a single 3 by 20 game book, dinner, dessert, snacks *and fun*. Must be 18 or older to attend and no alcohol is allowed. For more information and to register, including reserved seating for 8 seat table player groups, contact Warren Pfister at wpfreetoam@gmail.com. If February 21 does not fit your schedule or Bingo is not your thing, donations are also welcome.

FertilityCare for Natural Family Planning and Women's Health:

Please join us for a free introductory lecture on FertilityCare. Therese Rodriguez, RN, FCP, FertilityCare Practitioner will present a lecture on the basics of FertilityCare for natural women's health and family planning. FertilityCare is a method of holistic fertility awareness that can benefit women from teens through the menopausal years. Couples are encouraged to attend together. Information will be provided about private follow up sessions and materials for purchase.

The next lecture will take place on **Wednesday, February 12, 2020 from 7:00 - 9:00pm.**

To register, call 301-754-8800 or visit:
HolyCrossHealth.org.

***January Ignatian Weekend Retreat:
"Lord teach us to Pray:"***

February 28 - March 1: Men

Fee: \$245, First-time retreatants and Young adults (under 30) \$195.
For more information contact Angel Restrepo at 301-392-0801.



***Please Join Us at a
Loyola Retreat House Day of Prayer:***

February 24, 2020: *The Greatest of these is Love*
March 9 and April 6, 2020: *Our Hope is in the Cross*
May 4, 2020: *Behold the Handmaid of the Lord*

Each Day of Prayer begins at 9:00am and includes:
Continental Breakfast, Lunch and Mass. Fee: \$40.

To register visit: <https://loyolaonthepotomac.com/registration-3/other-registration-form-10/>.

Blessed Sacrament Bereavement Support Group:

The Shrine of the Most Blessed Sacrament at 3630 Quesada Street, NW Washington, DC, 20015-2538, will offer an eight-week bereavement support group series for adults who have experienced the death of a parent, spouse, child, sibling or significant other.

Our program provides:

- † Confidential sharing in small groups
- † Support that brings to light the depth of our pain
- † Understanding how loss affects us emotionally, spiritually, physically, and mentally
- † Coping mechanisms for difficult times such as holidays or special days when our loss is more likely to affect us and our families
- † Suggestions for how to adapt to a life style without our loved one
- † Suggestions for how to take personal care of ourselves

The Spring series will begin **Tuesday, February 25**, and continue for eight consecutive Tuesdays through April 14, 2020 from 7:00-8:30 pm. There is no fee but **REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED**. For more information contact Jim Hoffman at hoffmanlpc@gmail.com or 202-577- 2213.

The RCIA Program is Looking for Volunteers to be Sponsors for Those Wishing to Join the Catholic Church:

A Sponsor must be a Catholic who has been baptized, received the Eucharist and Confirmation, and who is currently living a sacramental life and is not in an irregular marriage. In addition, the Sponsor must be (for our program) 18 years of age and lead a life of faith in harmony with the ministry that they are undertaking. If you have discerned that you would like to be a Sponsor, please reach out to Carl and Kariana Rios at crios@lourdesbethesda.net or call and leave a message at 202-360-9191.

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.**

Sick in Our Parish:

Please pray for our sick brothers and sisters, especially **Alice McGurty.**

Deceased in Our Parish:

Please pray for our deceased brothers and sisters, especially **R. Michael Haynes.**

OLOL Sunday Meal For the Poor and Homeless:

Takes place every Sunday from 4:00-6:00pm in the school cafeteria. If you'd like to volunteer to help serve the meal, sign up at: <http://vols.pt/3XNY26>. **Please, only come to volunteer if you've signed up ahead of time** — otherwise we tend to have more volunteers than we need. If you'd like to donate food for the meal, please bring it to the cafeteria on Sunday from 4:15-4:45 (use the blue door to the left of the school's main entrance). Food should be pre-cooked if cooking is needed. If you have any questions about the meal, send an email to OLOLSundayMeal@gmail.com or call Dan Keen at 301-564-0077.

Volunteers also operate a "clothes closet" where our guests can obtain donated clothing. Bring donations from 4:30 to 5:15pm on Sundays (the room is down the long hallway from the cafeteria) or contact Dan Keen to arrange a pick-up at your home. Clothes to help keep our guests warm in the fall and winter are most needed now. We have very limited need for children's clothing or for formal clothing (suits, etc.) 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)



**Second Sunday in Ordinary Time
2020 Offertory: \$4,968**

Our February Poor Box will be going to Maryland Right for Life. They are an organization that recognizes the fundamental value of every human life. MDRTL works to protect all human life by working to make abortion, infanticide, euthanasia, and the destruction of human embryos socially, legally, and morally unacceptable and by promoting positive alternatives to these acts. Thank you for your support.

Por favor, para ser parroquiano registrado, usted debe llenar y regresar la aplicación de abajo. A partir de ese momento usted recibirá vía correo una registración más detallada la cual usted debe llenar y regresar. Esto nos da información importante, como su información personal, los sacramentos que usted haya o no recibido, métodos de cómo prefiere usted colaborar en la misa dominical, etc. Por favor comuníquese con Claire Toms at ctoms@lourdesbethesda.net si tiene alguna pregunta.

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 – 2 de Febrero de 2020:
María presenta a Jesús en el Templo



El gesto ritual que realizan los padres de Jesús, con el estilo de humilde ocultamiento que caracteriza la encarnación del Hijo de Dios, encuentra una acogida singular por parte del anciano Simeón y de la profetisa Ana. Por inspiración divina, ambos reconocen en aquel Niño al Mesías anunciado por los profetas. En el encuentro entre el anciano Simeón y María, joven madre, el Antiguo y el Nuevo Testamento se unen de modo admirable en acción de gracias por el don de la Luz, que ha brillado en las tinieblas y les ha impedido que dominen: Cristo Señor, luz para alumbrar a las naciones y gloria de su pueblo Israel.

El día en que la Iglesia conmemora la presentación de Jesús en el templo, se celebra la Jornada de la vida consagrada. De hecho, el episodio evangélico al que nos referimos constituye un significativo icono de la entrega de su propia vida que realizan cuantos han sido llamados a representar en la Iglesia y en el mundo, mediante los consejos evangélicos, los rasgos característicos de Jesús: virgen, pobre y obediente. (*Benedicto XVI, 2 de febrero de 2012*).

Anuncios:

- ◇ Los invitamos a participar en el Retiro de Cuaresma el Sábado 29 de Febrero de 8:30am a 3:15pm en la cafetería de la Escuela. Habrá reflexiones, confesiones y cuidado de niños. Favor de traer algo de comida para compartir en el lunch.
- ◇ Se han entregado pañales, leche, ropa y artículos para bebe que amablemente muchos de ustedes han donado. El Centro Tepeyac agradece enormemente sus donativos. Serán de gran utilidad para los bebes recién nacidos.
- ◇ Todos los domingos a las 11:45am en la cafeteria de la escuela tendremos actividades en español para todos los que gusten participar. Habrá charlas, confesiones y exposición del Santísimo Sacramento. Todos son bienvenidos.

Regístrese o mantenga Actualizada su información:

Recorte el siguiente formato de inscripción y entréguelo en la Misa junto con la colecta o llévelo a la Rectoría.

- 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: _____

DIRECION: _____ APTO: _____ CIUDAD: _____

CODIGO POSTAL: _____ TELEFONO: _____ CORREO ELECTRONICO: _____