

**A Letter from Our Pastor**

Last Sunday I went to a talk called *Making Time in Western Thought: An Introduction to Calendar Studies and Liturgical Calculations*. It might seem an obscure topic at first glance, and admittedly not one that keeps many of us up at night. We take liturgical dates for granted now, but in the past this was a source of conflicting calculus and consideration as our ancestors followed the rhythms of the sun, moon, and even stars in setting patterns of life and worship. This presentation at the Italian Cultural Society here in Bethesda, was delivered by Sister Maria Theotókos Adams, SSVM. Sister is not Italian (though she speaks it), but a native of Washington who is pursuing her doctorate at CUA in Church History. (I might add she was not only smart and informed, but full of faith and a lot of fun.) Sister addressed the mathematical/astronomical issues of calculating time, as well as liturgical pressures in early Christian history which accelerated the work. For example, determining the proper date of Easter was a cause of some controversy as early as a meeting of bishops recorded in 154 AD. A device developed to determine the date of this most important Christian celebration was known as the Computus, and perhaps the seed of our modern computer.

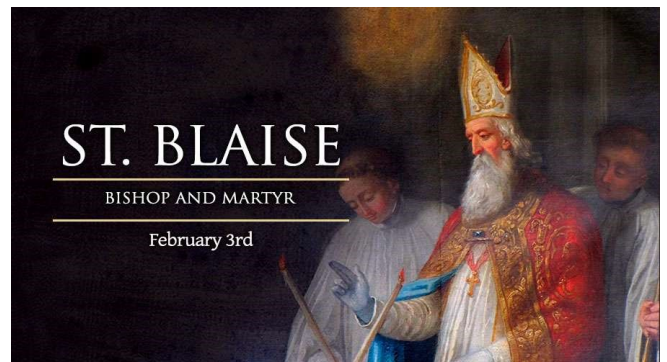
For most of Christian history we lived under what is known as the Julian calendar. As its name implies it was imposed under Julius (Augustus) Caesar in the year 45 BC. (He also added two new months to the formerly ten month Roman year, naming them after himself, July and August.) Many years later it became evident that even this ancient improvement in aligning time was still a bit off and needed updating. Under Pope Gregory XIII in the year 1582, the adjustment was made for the gradual drift of the calendar year, and with respect to the equinoxes it was off by 10 days. That year, October 4 at midnight was followed by October 15, thus the Gregorian calendar. Because this scientific correction was made under the leadership of the pope, Catholic countries of Europe were united in the change, but most Protestant counties stuck with the old calendar. Imagine that for almost two centuries Europe was divided between two different numbering of days. With time, the logic of the new prevailed and in 1752 England and her colony, the US, adopted the Gregorian calendar. Interestingly, most Orthodox Christian churches have retained the Julian calendar. For this reason some of our most important days, like Christmas, sadly do not coincide. Add to all this the tweaking of a "leap day" every four years. 2020 is a leap year, as opposed to a "common year", so February's normal 28 days becomes 29. (Wouldn't an extra day in April be better?) Either way, another day to play and pray.

- Msgr. Edward Filardi

**Masses for the Week**

**Monday, January 27th** (G. reading: Mk. 3: 22-30)  
 7:00 AM +Kistrinah Ayala Fr. Ubau  
 8:00 AM + Helen Leonard Fr. Ubau  
 12 NOON + Katherine Everard Msgr. Filardi  
**Tuesday, January 28th** (G. reading: Mk. 3: 31-35)  
 7:00 AM Int. Camille Walsh Msgr. Filardi  
 8:00 AM + Margaret D. O'Connor Msgr. Filardi  
 12 NOON Int. President Trump Fr. MacFarlane  
**Wednesday, January 29th** (G. reading: Mk. 4: 1-20)  
 7:00 AM Holy Souls in Purgatory Msgr. Filardi  
 8:00 AM + Mary Anne McNerny Msgr. Filardi  
 12 NOON + Carlos Sanson Msgr. Filardi  
**Thursday, January 30th** (Gospel reading: Mk. 4: 21-25)  
 7:00 AM + Alfredo Llop Msgr. Filardi  
 8:00 AM Int. Howard & Eleanor Walsh Msgr. Filardi  
 12:00 AM Holy Souls in Purgatory Msgr. Filardi  
**Friday, January 31st** (Gospel reading: Mk. 4: 26-34)  
 7:00 AM + Joseph Can Ngoc Pham Msgr. Filardi  
 8:00 AM + Fred Smith Msgr. Filardi  
 12 NOON + Lois Lewis Msgr. Filardi  
**Saturday, February 1st** (Gospel reading: Mk. 4: 35-41)  
 8:00 AM + Charles O. Magnetti Msgr. Filardi  
 11:00-11:55 AM Confessions Fr. Ubau  
 12 NOON Int. President Trump Msgr. Filardi  
 4:00-4:45 PM Confessions Msgr. Filardi  
 5:00 PM Int. Gavidia Family Fr. Ubau  
**Sunday, February 2nd** (Gospel reading: Lk. 2: 22-40)  
 7:30 AM Priest's Intentions Msgr. Filardi  
 9:00 AM People of the Parish Fr. Ubau  
 10:30 AM Priest's Intentions Msgr. Filardi  
 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.**



**RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**  
**301-654-5954**

One of Father Larry Richards' favorite spiritual axioms is the line from Saint Augustine: "You have made us for yourself, O Lord, and our hearts are restless until they rest in You." In a world where we observe much restlessness, and many failed searches for purpose in life, these few words zero in on the reality that we can never find fulfillment until we rest in God's embrace. Responsibility and stress burden us, and we seek relief. Man is made in God's image, and nothing less than God is worthy of serving as man's end or fulfillment. Even the greatest of earthly loves are not things or events, but persons: beings capable of reciprocal love, which is itself a foretaste of the divine love we crave.

The bottom line, then, is to surrender. In order to rest in God, now and in the life to come, a person has to divest himself of attachments to this present world and its fading realities. One needs to overcome fear and anxiety in order to give to God the openness of our hearts, allowing Him to come into our lives in a profound way. Then, we will discover Him leading, nourishing, and providing for us. The real obstacle is that people today do not want to commit to God, and the Church, for fear they might miss out on something better that might come along.

***Each morning, as your feet hit the floor, and you take the first steps to begin getting ready for the day, make a morning offering. Offer your life to God in total surrender. Ask Him to use you, each new day, for His purpose, trusting that He will provide for your needs. Be not anxious about the days to come, but seek only to serve God faithfully. Hand over your fears and worries. Rest in the Lord, and discover a peace that ends your restlessness.***

(Source: Homiletic & Pastoral Review © Ignatius Press 2014; *Surrender* by Father Larry Richards)

***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](http://www.jp2shrine.org).*

***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**.

***The Ladies of Lourdes:***

***Tuesday, February 11 is the Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes.***

The Ladies of Lourdes will be supplying the refreshments after a Holy Hour which marks the beginning of our Parish celebration. We are requesting beverages, finger foods and dessert. If you are feeling adventuresome, think about something with a French connection. For details, further information, and especially to **volunteer** please contact Barbara Black at [fsbbob@verizon.net](mailto:fsbbob@verizon.net) or 301-652-0749.

***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](http://HolyCrossHealth.org).

***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 [wpfreetoroam@gmail.com](mailto:wpfreetoroam@gmail.com). If February 21 does not fit your schedule or Bingo is not your thing, donations are also welcome.

***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/>.

***Men's Discernment Retreat Weekend:  
Friday through Sunday  
January 31 - February 2, 2020:***

Archbishop Gregory invites men in their 20's - 40's, who are interested in learning more about the priesthood, to attend a discernment retreat at Saint John Paul II Seminary.

The retreat will be an opportunity to pray and reflect on God's call, meet priests and seminarians, hear their stories, and learn more about the seminary and priesthood.

Registration is now open at: [www.DCPriest.org](http://www.DCPriest.org).

For more information contact Fr. Mark Ivany at 202-636-9020 or [vocations@adw.org](mailto:vocations@adw.org).



***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](mailto:leah@empoweringtheages.org) or call 301-476-0186.

**Please note that 2019 tax letters will be mailed out the week of January 20, 2020. Please email Claire Toms at [ctoms@lourdesbethesda.net](mailto:ctoms@lourdesbethesda.net) with any questions.**

### **Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend:**

“He said to them, ‘Come after me, and I will make you fishers of men.’ At once they left their nets and followed him.” Let us answer God’s call to make our marriages the best they can be by attending a Worldwide Marriage Encounter on **February 28 – March 1, 2020**. The weekend is in College Park, MD.  
Apply at: [moments4marriage.org](http://moments4marriage.org).  
**Apply by January 25, 2020** to guarantee your seat. For more information leave a message at 301-541-7007.

### **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](mailto: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](mailto:crios@lourdesbethesda.net) or call and leave a message at 202-360-9191.

### **LOL New Year Potluck Dinner Movie Night:**

**Friday, January 31, 7:00pm at the LOL Library Media Center:**

Please bring your favorite entrée or dessert to share for the potluck dinner. Then, enjoy the classic color movie musical “Meet Me in St. Louis”. Start your new year by sharing a lively year in the life of the boisterous Smith family in 1903 St. Louis just before the World’s Fair. Teenage Esther (Judy Garland), her spunky little sister Tootie (Mary O’Brien), and her other brothers and sisters encounter childhood pranks, young love, and other family events as they pass through the four seasons under the guidance of two loving parents, a spry grandfather, and a feisty Irish cook. A dozen memorable musical numbers, all in gorgeous period costumes, include “The Trolley Song”, “The Boy Next Door”, and “Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas”. For questions, call Phil Sheridan at 301-654-4255.



**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](mailto:sgolden@lourdesbethesda.net) or [ctoms@lourdesbethesda.net](mailto: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](mailto:office@lourdesbethesda.net) by **Monday at 3:00 PM.**

**Thank you!**

A huge thank you to all of you who participated in our Take the Next Step program. It's not too late to participate. You can begin giving at a new level 1%, 1.5% and higher when you can. Each step you take will help our parish with its financial goals and goals as a parish community.

**LOLO 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](mailto: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)*



**Epiphany 2019 Offertory: \$11,061**

**Baptism of the Lord 2019 Offertory: \$12,274**

**Our January Poor Box will be going to the Father McKenna Center. It serves as a food pantry, hypothermia center, and a safe and drug-free environment for the poor. The center is primarily funded by private donations in order to continue to offer its many services. We sincerely appreciate your generosity and 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](mailto: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 – 26 de Enero de 2020:



### Dejarse sorprender por el Señor

«El pueblo que caminaba en tinieblas vio una gran luz». El Señor es la luz y el Señor viene a iluminar nuestros corazones, hay que dejarlo entrar. Que Él ilumine toda nuestra realidad. A veces se puede vivir en la oscuridad porque no se quiere aceptar el propio pecado y la propia debilidad; no se quiere ver el camino que está indicando el Señor. Se prefiere vivir en la oscuridad que salir de ella.

«El pueblo que caminaba...» vivía en una actitud cómoda y no se movían para ir a la luz. Pero con la venida del Señor no podemos permanecer indiferentes. Él nos trae su misericordia y su amor; Él sale a nuestro encuentro y nos abraza, pero no nos puede obligar. Nos pide que demos un paso y Él se encargará del resto; nos pide que queramos y Él se encargará de que podamos.

A veces se puede creer que la conversión es imposible, que aún estamos muy lejos, que el camino es largo y cansado pero, qué vida es fácil. Toda elección comporta una renuncia, o mejor, toda elección comporta un camino. Lo único que hay que hacer es dejar nuestro pequeño tesoro para alcanzar uno más grande. Sólo hay que dejarse sorprender por el Señor y tirarse en sus manos. « ¡No tengáis miedo! ¡Abrid, y aún de par en par, las puertas a Cristo!» (San Juan Pablo II)

### Anuncios:

Todos los domingos a las 11:45am en la cafetería 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: \_\_\_\_\_

DIRECCION: \_\_\_\_\_ APTO: \_\_\_\_\_ CIUDAD: \_\_\_\_\_

CODIGO POSTAL: \_\_\_\_\_ TELEFONO: \_\_\_\_\_ CORREO ELECTRONICO: \_\_\_\_\_