

A Letter from Our Pastor

“Guidance on Coronavirus” is the subject line of a letter sent from the Archdiocesan Center to all the priests last weekend. Let me share its main points, and a few of my own thoughts. It begins, “The purpose of this communication is to address the concern of the (COVID19), which is a fluid situation. According to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the current risk to the U.S. public is considered low, but ultimately, we should be prepared to respond to any current concerns.” Then, this guidance for parishes: “Pastors may wish to remind their parishioners, in whatever manner appropriate within Mass, that no one is ever under obligation to shake hands during the Sign of Peace (a bow or other gesture is appropriate) or to receive from the chalice. Christ is fully present in each species (form) when the bread and wine have been consecrated into His Body and Blood. Pastors may also want to remind their parishioners that they can receive the Body of Christ in the hand instead of the tongue.”

My thoughts: 1. The Sign of Peace – This liturgical rite is always offered [Priest: “The peace of the Lord be with you always.” Congregation: “And with your spirit.”], but the extended option, “Let us offer each other the sign of peace”, is always optional. As most of you know I have decided to decline the option at Lourdes since flu levels reached peak levels about two months ago. And while I personally feel the “Sign of Peace” can interrupt the flow of the Mass, this is also at the urging of several healthcare professionals in the parish. Last week a mom expressed to me how much she missed this communal gesture and suggested that we offer an alternative non-touch expression of peace. This makes sense, but I am not sure I have the authority to require “no touching” or to define what that sign might be, or how to enforce it. To me it seems best to simply suspend the communal part for now.

2. The Chalice – We have discontinued giving the Precious Blood at the one Mass where it was previously offered. But it is good to remember, the Church has always taught that when you receive under one element you receive the whole Jesus, both Body and Blood.

3. Communion in the Hand or Tongue? I hope everyone is aware of this option. Placing a Host on the tongue with purified fingers but without contact seems a more sanitary option than on a potentially unclean hand. To this end, we priests are committed to hand cleansing before Mass, and during. Any altar server can tell when it comes to pouring the water for purification during Mass, my motto is ‘High and Heavy’. And from there I avoid any unnecessary contact before Communion.

Finally, the Archdiocese advises, “If you need to refrain from Sunday Mass, you are dispensed from the Sunday obligation.” If you feel sick, are sneezing and coughing, please stay but pray at home. It is not heroic to drag yourself to Mass when you are down, rather the virtue lies in getting rest and avoiding spreading your ‘bad news’. The general consequences of the Coronavirus many not be as deadly as first feared. Nonetheless, simple acts of sanitation and consideration can go a long way in slowing its spread. And remember, each day of life is a gift, but no day can be guaranteed. The best preparation always is to get right with God.

- Msgr. Edward Filardi

Masses for the Week

Monday, March 9 (Gospel reading: Lk. 6: 36-38)		
7:00 AM	+ Martha Lewis	Fr. Ubau
8:00 AM	+ Msgr. Thomas Wells	Fr. Ubau
12 NOON	+ Dennis C. Magnetti	Msgr. Filardi
Tuesday, March 10 (Gospel reading: Mt. 23: 1-12)		
7:00 AM	+ Mr. & Mrs. Charlie Luby	Msgr. Filardi
8:00 AM	+ Mildred & Andrew Sheridan	Msgr. Filardi
12 NOON	+ Francisco Bires	Fr. Ubau
Wednesday, March 11 (Gospel reading: Mt. 20: 17-28)		
7:00 AM	+ Robert Benner	Fr. Ubau
8:00 AM	Holy Souls in Purgatory	Fr. Ubau
12 NOON	Int. Lynn Seymour	Msgr. Filardi
Thursday, March 12 (Gospel reading: Lk. 16: 19-31)		
7:00 AM	+ Robert McCullough	Msgr. Filardi
8:00 AM	Int. President Trump	Msgr. Filardi
12 NOON	Special Intention	Fr. Ubau
Friday, March 13 (Gospel reading: Mt. 21: 33-43, 45-46)		
7:00 AM	+ Katherine Everard	Msgr. Filardi
8:00 AM	+ Leah Dunn	Fr. Ubau
12 NOON	Int. Bill & Beth Suhosky	Msgr. Filardi
Saturday, March 14 (Gospel reading: Lk. 15: 1-3, 11-32)		
8:00 AM	+ Olga Mayo	Fr. Ubau
11:00-11:55 AM	Confessions	Fr. Ubau
12 NOON	+ Barbara Finnegan	Msgr. Filardi
4:00-4:45 PM	Confessions	Msgr. Filardi
5:00 PM	+ Joseph Can Ngoc Pham	Fr. Ubau
Sunday, March 15 (Gospel reading: Jn. 4: 5-42)		
7:30 AM	Priest's Intentions	Msgr. Filardi
9:00 AM	Priest's Intentions	Fr. Ubau
10:30 AM	People of the Parish	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.



SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION **301-654-5954** **Second Sunday of Lent**

We begin the Lenten Season by receiving ashes: "You are dust and to dust you shall return (Genesis 3:19). This dust reminds us that we are weak, frail and mortal. Yet we are *dust* loved by God. It please the Lord to gather that dust in his hands and to breathe into it the breath of life (Genesis 2:7); dust that is precious, destined for eternal life; which God has poured out his heaven; and the dust that contains his dreams. We are God's hope, his treasure and his glory.

Our Holy Father wishes for us to keep this in mind this Lenten Season. For Lent is not a time for useless sermons, but for recognizing that our lowly ashes are love by God. It is a time of grace, a time for letting God gaze upon us with love and in this way *change our lives*. You may ask: "How can I trust? What am I living for? Believe that God can transform our dust into glory.

All around we can see lives reduced to ashes: Rubble, destruction, war. The lives of unwelcomed innocents; the lives of the excluded poor; the lives of the abandoned elderly; in our relationships: inability to resolve conflicts and unwillingness to apologize.

Saint Paul tells us: "Be reconciled to God!" Holiness is not achieved by our efforts, for it is grace! By ourselves, we cannot remove the dust that sullies our hearts. Only Jesus, who knows and loves our heart, can heal it. Lent is a time for healing. We can receive God's forgiveness in the Sacrament of Penance, because there the fire of God's love consumes the ashes of our sin. Let us allow ourselves to stand up and walk towards Easter. Then we will experience the joy of discovering how God raises us up from our ashes.

(Source: Given at the Basilica of Santa Sabina; Ash Wednesday, 26 February 2020; condensed from of the Homily of His Holiness Pope Francis; © copyright – Libreria Edrice Vaticana)

Continue to pray for His Holiness Pope Francis' speedy and healthy recovery from his current illness.

2020 Lenten Schedule:

Wednesdays in Lent:

The Light is On for You (Confessions) will be from 6:00 - 7:00pm.

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.

Adult Bible Study:

Jesus The Way, The Truth, and the Life:



Is a 10-week video study program and book beginning at Our Lady of Lourdes on **Monday, March 16, 2020 at 7:00pm.**

Anchored in the life of Christ as presented in the Gospels, this study explores the entirety of Jesus' life—Who He is, what He is really like, what He taught, what He did for our salvation, and what all of this means for us as Catholics today.

Presented by Dr. Marcellion D'Ambrosio, Jeff Cavins, and Dr. Edward Sri, this study was filmed in the Holy Land so Catholics can experience the extraordinary world in which Jesus lived and taught—the historical context, the politics, the clashing cultures, the history, and the ancient land—and see where the most significant events of His life took place, from His Infancy to His Ascension.

The Ladies of Lourdes:

The **Tuesday, March 10** meeting of the Ladies of Lourdes will be our annual Evening of Recollection starting promptly at 7:30pm in the Church. Father Jorge Ubau will lead us that evening as we proceed on our Lenten journey in preparation for the joy of Easter.

All women of the parish are welcome to attend. For further information contact Barbara Black at fsbbob@verizon.net or 301-652-0749.

Collection for the Church in the Developing World:

On the weekend of March 14 - 15, 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.

Lectors Needed:

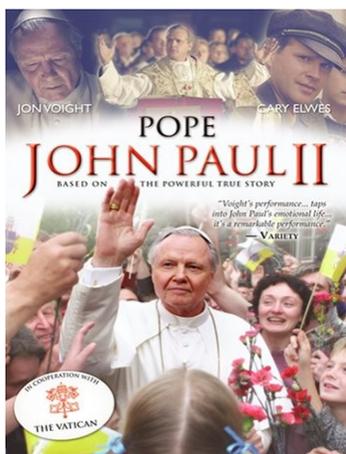
Lectors are needed for the 7:30 Sunday morning Mass. If you have a strong, clear voice, please consider participating in Mass by presenting the Word of God to your fellow parishioners. If interested, please contact Cecilia Magnetti or Walter Kikendall at: lectorcoordinators@gmail.com or 301-943-2061.

Save the Date! Sunday, June 28, 2020: Jubilarian Mass:

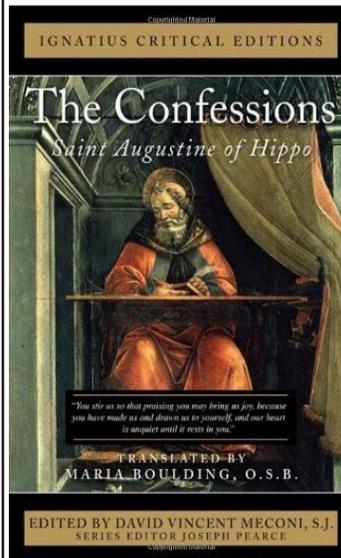
The annual ADW Jubilarian Celebration of marriage, honors couples married 25, 30, 35, 40, 45, 50 and 51+ years. This year the Mass will be held on Sunday, June 28, 2020 at 2:00pm at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception with his Excellency, Archbishop Wilton D. Gregory, as the celebrant. **To register, please contact your Parish Office by May 22, 2020.** For more information, please call the Office for Family Life at 301-853-4546 or email: visiblesign@adw.org.

OLOL Lenten Friday Meal and Religious Movie:

On Friday, March 13 at 7:00pm, following the Stations of the Cross, we will gather in the OLOL School Library Media Center for a simple meatless Lenten meal with a religiously themed movie. The next movie will be part two of "Pope John Paul II". This award-winning, epic movie, filmed on location in Poland and in the Vatican, depicts the momentous historical events of the papacy of Pope John Paul II (played by Jon Voight). Please join us and bring a meatless meal contribution. The series will continue with "Bella" (March 20), "The Courageous Heart of Irena Sendler" (March 27), and "The Passion of the Christ" (April 3). For questions, contact Phil Sheridan at 301-654-4255.



Study of Saints:



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 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 club meets on the fifth Sundays from 3:00-4:00pm in the Delacroix Conference Room at Our Lady of Lourdes. Enter through the glass doors on the driveway at the front of the church.

The next meeting is March 29, 2020, on *The Confessions of St Augustine of Hippo*, Ignatius Press 2012. Also free online at: <https://www.gutenberg.org/files/3296/3296-h/3296-h.htm>.

Cathedral Penance Service:

The Cathedral of St. Matthew the Apostle invites you to experience the love of Christ through the Sacrament of Reconciliation at a Lenten Communal Penance Service, "Come Home for Easter," on **Tuesday, April 7, 2020 at 12:10pm**. More than 10 priests will be available for individual confessions, including Spanish-speaking and other foreign language confessors. The Cathedral is located at 1725 Rhode Island Avenue, NW, between Connecticut Ave. and 17th St., near the Red Line Farragut North Metro station.

You are most welcome to join us here at the Mother Church of the Archdiocese of Washington, the Cathedral of St. Matthew the Apostle, for any of our Lenten and Holy Week offerings. Join us in worship and prayer at our liturgies, enjoy musical events, and find opportunities for study and deepening of your faith.
Visit our website at:

www.stmatthewscathedral.org/Lent2020.

Catholic Charities Gala:



Join your friends in supporting Catholic Charities' work inspiring hope in the community by attending the 2020 Catholic Charities Gala on **Saturday, April 4, 2020**. The annual gala is spring's premier social event. Chaired by young professional supporters of Catholic

Charities, this year's gala features drinks, dinner and dancing at a new location, the Washington Hilton.

Festivities start at 6:30pm. Music by The Source. To reserve your seat or table, visit: catholiccharitiesdc.org/gala. Special pricing for young professionals. RSVP today. By attending, you support your community and a legacy of service.

Attention Parents of 8th grade Students Attending Catholic High School Next Year:

The Knights of Columbus Rock Creek Council #2797 in Bethesda is awarding scholarships to eligible students. Awards of up to \$1,500 per year, per student, are available. **Applications are due by May 8th**. More information can be found at: <https://www.kofc2797.org/ohara-scholarship> Any questions may be directed to Chris Ryan at ctrhoya@comcast.net.

Come and join us! Schoenstatt Retreat: "Woman Touched by God:"

March 21, 9:00am - 2:00 pm:

St. Raphael's Catholic Church, Potomac, Md. For women ages 25 and up. Cost is \$20 per person or \$25 for same day. The cost includes brunch, coffee and drinks. For more information contact Maria Elena at 240-274-7300 or mariaelenavzla00@hotmail.com. To register visit: www.schoenstattDC.org/mothers.

Married Couples Lenten Retreat:

In *Joy of Love* Pope Francis says: "No family drops down from heaven perfectly formed. Families need constantly to grow and mature in the ability to love." As the center of your Domestic Church/family, do take the time this Lent to grow and strengthen the love you have for your spouse. Your entire family will benefit and thank you for it. Sign up for a Married Couples Lenten retreat to be held at St John Paul II Shrine on **Saturday, March 28 from 9:30am to 4:30pm**. It only costs \$40 per couple (bring your own lunch). The retreat leader is Rev. Emanuel Magro, who has worked with couples over 20 years. The focus of the retreat will be on *Holy Moments in Married Life, Experiencing Jesus' Resurrection*. **The Deadline is March 21.** To sign up go to: www.blessedsacramentdc.org/couples.retreat. First-come, first-serve. For more information, contact Jim & Ann Hoffman at hoffmanja2@msn.com or call 202-362-4510 (h) or 202-486-8291 (c).



Please Join Us For:

Days of Prayer:

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.

Ignatian Weekend Retreats: Lord teach us to Pray

March 13-15	Women
March 20-22	Men
April 3-5	Women
April 17-19	Men & Women
April 24-26 (Spanish)	Men & Women

Fee: \$245, First-time retreatants and Young adults (under 30) \$195

Triduum Retreat: So That All might Live

April 9 - 12, 2020:

Celebrate the Passion and Resurrection of our Savior with us.
Fee: \$295

For more information on retreats or to register go to: www.loyolaonthepotomac.com
Or contact Angel Restrepo at 301-392-0801 or angel.restrepo@loyolarettreat.org.

Save the Date for the Lenten Food Drive:

Hunger is an ever-present reality in our community. Local food pantries are experiencing a great demand for food. To help replenish supplies, Catholic Charities and the Archdiocese of Washington together are sponsoring the Lenten Food Drive.

Our parish collection for the food drive will take place the weekend of March 21 - 22. Bags will be distributed the weekend of March 14 -15.

Thank you for all you do to help the needy among us.

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.**

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. With spring on the horizon, we're starting to collect clothing for warmer weather. We have very limited need, or space, for children's clothing or for "dressy" clothing such as men's suits, so those types of clothing are best taken elsewhere. 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)



Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time 2020 Offertory: \$11,218

Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time 2020 Offertory: \$9,405

The Second Collection on March 15, 2020 will be for the Church in the Developing World.

Our March Poor Box will be going to the Catholic Charities Lenten Food Drive. Donations will go to local Maryland food banks. Thank you in advance for your generosity.

Please note that Fridays during Lent are obligatory days of abstinence. The norms concerning abstinence from meat are binding upon members of the 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 ctoms@lourdesbethesda.net, or fill out the form below.

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 – 08 de Marzo de 2020

La Transfiguración



Recordar que la fe cristiana implica, siguiendo el ejemplo de Jesús y en unión con él, una lucha "contra los Dominadores de este mundo tenebroso", en el cual el diablo actúa y no se cansa, tampoco hoy, de tentar al hombre que quiere acercarse al Señor: Cristo sale victorioso, para abrir también nuestro corazón a la esperanza y guiarnos a vencer las seducciones del mal. El Evangelio de la Transfiguración del Señor pone delante de nuestros ojos la gloria de Cristo, que anticipa la resurrección y que anuncia la divinización del hombre. La comunidad cristiana toma conciencia de que es llevada, como los Apóstoles Pedro, Santiago y Juan "aparte, a un monte alto", para acoger nuevamente en Cristo, como hijos en el Hijo, el don de la gracia de Dios: "Este es mi Hijo amado, en quien me complazco; escuchadle". Es la invitación a alejarse del ruido de la vida diaria para sumergirse en la presencia de Dios: él quiere transmitirnos, cada día, una palabra que penetra en las profundidades de nuestro espíritu, donde discierne el bien y el mal y fortalece la voluntad de seguir al Señor.

Benedicto XVI, 22 de febrero de 2011.

ANUNCIOS:

- La Luz esta encendida! Todos los miércoles de cuaresma de 6:00pm a 7:00pm habrá oportunidad de acercarse al sacramento de la reconciliación en la Iglesia de Nuestra Señora de Lourdes. El Padre Jorge Ubau estará confesando en español el miércoles 11 de Marzo en este mismo horario.
- El 14 y 15 de Marzo serán distribuidas bolsas en las cuales usted podrá donar alimentos para familias necesitadas. Deberá traer los alimentos el 21 y 22 de Marzo.
- El 21 de Marzo de 9:00am a 2:00pm habrá un retiro para mujeres de Schoenstatt en la iglesia de San Rafael Potomac, MD. Para mayor información contactar a Maria Elena al 240-274-7300 o bien mariaelenavzla00@hotmail.com
- Todos los domingos a las 11:45am en la cafeteria de la escuela tenemos actividades en español para todos los que gusten participar. Habrá charlas, confesiones y exposición del Santísimo Sacramento.

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: _____