

A Letter from Our Pastor

Hello friends!

Many of you have no idea who I am and that's because I'm brand new here at Our Lady of Lourdes parish - literally, I just moved in last week. And it's not just me - we also have a newly ordained priest who's been assigned to your parish - Fr. James Morrison. We are both so incredibly excited to be here to join your community of faith and we are very much looking forward to meeting you all in the coming days, weeks and months. We know this is a trying time in the life of the Church with regard to the ongoing pandemic that has changed just about every aspect of our lives. The 'new normal' is becoming an every day normal to us all and now there's even more transition in your lives with two new priests. But please know that both Fr. James and I are committed to helping you all to continue to grow in our Catholic faith, to continue to grow this parish community and to continue to bring about the love of Jesus Christ each and every day. I suppose the best way to describe our mission here is to do those three things - and not as best as we can, but as best as the Holy Spirit inspires us to do so!

We are both here for you all and we want to hear from you! Our email addresses should be listed in the bulletin and we encourage you to reach out to us. The more we hear from you all about this great parish and your hopes and desires to make this an even better community of believers - the better we will be able to serve you. We don't want to come in and take over, but rather we want to respond to your needs and the needs of those God is calling to join us in worship and community. We cannot wait to hear from you!

Thanks to everyone who has been so graciously welcoming both Fr. James and myself and let's pray for one another for an end to the pandemic, for the success of our mission, and for the faith to continue to grow at Lourdes!

In Him,

Fr. Rob

Masses for the Week

Monday, July 20 (Gospel reading: Mt. 12: 38-42)
7:00 AM Int. Robert & Maureen McNamara
8:00 AM + Mildred & Andrew Sheridan
12 NOON + Ramon Alvarez
Tuesday, July 21 (Gospel reading: Mt. 12: 46-50)
7:00 AM + Paul O'Malley
8:00 AM + Jerry Collins
12 NOON + Lena Montiforte
Wednesday, July 22 (Gospel reading: Jn. 20: 1-2, 11-18)
7:00 AM Int. Stephanie Moreno
8:00 AM Int. Arthur Walsh & Family
12 NOON + Jose Hernandez
Thursday, July 23 (G. reading: Mt. 13: 10-17)
7:00 AM + The Asuku Family
8:00AM + Jack Townsend
12NOON Int. Ellis Family
Friday, July 24 (Gospel reading: Mt. 13: 18-23)
7:00 AM + Joseph Can Ngoc Pham
8:00 AM Int. Clemence M. Pozenzi
12 NOON Int. Judy DeSzily
Saturday, July 25 (Gospel reading: Mt. 20: 20-28)
8:00AM + Lois Lewis
11:00-11:55 AM Confessions
12 NOON + Frances & Tyler Williams
4:00-4:45 PM Confessions
5:00PM + Bill Ryan
Sunday, July 26 (Gospel reading: Mt. 13: 44-52)
7:30 AM People of the Parish
9:00 AM Priest's Intentions
10:30 AM Priest's Intentions
12 NOON Priest's Intentions
1:30 PM Priest's Intentions

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.



Our Normal Mass Schedule has Resumed with Restrictions:

- * ***Please use hand sanitizer upon entry***
- * ***Montgomery County requires face masks inside***
- * ***Please keep a safe distance of 6 feet***
- * ***Capacity is limited per pew section to an individual or members of a shared household***

SIXTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION 301-654-5954

The Lord Jesus Christ, physician of our souls and bodies . . . has willed that His Church continue, in the power of the Holy Spirit, His work of healing and salvation. . . Catechism of the Catholic Church 1421

Jesus, our Divine Physician, has given the Church the sacraments of healing - Reconciliation, and the Anointing of the Sick – to forgive sins and help the sick and the dying.

The Sacrament of Reconciliation involves a conversion of ourselves to God; a confession of sins to a priest; a penance process of moral change; a reconciliation to God, others, and self; and the forgiveness of our sins.

Lifelong conversion to God, by moral and spiritual growth, is the key to understanding and profiting from this sacrament. The Holy Spirit helps us in this by: (1) **convincing** us of our sinfulness, (2) **convicting** us like a Divine lawyer, (3) **converting** us to grace and love, and (4) **consoling** us in the process (Saint John 16: 8-9).

God alone forgives sins; yet, Jesus conferred this on his apostles and their successors the bishops and the priests to share in this power. They offer, in the Name of Jesus, forgiveness of sins, the manner of satisfaction, prayer for the sinners, and they do penance with them.

All sacraments bring the participants Divine joy and peace. The special happiness received here arises from lifting the burden of sin and guilt. We are restored to friendship with God, others, and self.

(Source: Essentials of the Faith Updated, A Guide to the Catechism of the Catholic Church; Rev. Alfred McBride, O. Praem.; © 2002 Our Sunday Visitor Publishing Division, Our Sunday Visitor. Inc.; pages 140 & 141)

The dispensation issued by Archbishop Gregory from the obligation to attend Mass during this time remains in effect. All persons who are subjects of the Archbishop of Washington no matter where they may be, and all other persons who are actually present in the Archdiocese of Washington who are under the obligation, are dispensed from the obligation until further notice (cann. 87 §1, 91).

For a complete list of Masses and updates during this time, please visit:
adw.org/live-streamed-masses-and-prayers/.

Crab Feast Loyola on the Potomac:

Sunday, September 13, 2020 from 2:00 pm to 5:00 pm:

ALL YOU CAN EAT CRABS, fried chicken, hamburgers, hotdogs, corn on the cob, coleslaw potato salad, watermelon, and our fabulous homemade Loyola cookies.

Early Bird Adult tickets **\$50**. (\$65 after September 1)

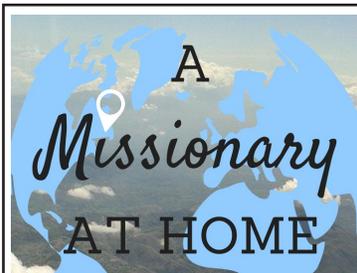
Children 7-12 **\$35**, 6 and under free

Contact: Alice Case (301) 392-0819 or

alice.case@loyolaretreat.org

Purchase tickets online at:

www.loyolaonthepotomac.com.



During this difficult time our world is facing with the coronavirus, we have the opportunity to grow in our friendship with Jesus and to pray and offer sacrifices on behalf of others who are in need. We are missionaries even at home.

What can I do as a missionary at home?

- ◇ Pray the Mission Rosary with your family for peace and healing in the world.
- ◇ Clean your room and do extra things around the house to help your mom and dad or siblings.
- ◇ Say the Divine Mercy Chaplet and ask the Holy Spirit to be at the bedside of someone sick or dying.
- ◇ Read the Sunday Mass readings. As a family, participate in a live-streamed Sunday Mass.

Virtual Spiritual Retreats With Spiritual Direction:

During this time of physical separation, Our Lady of Bethesda Retreat Center is providing virtual retreats so that you can connect with others and feed your soul. Currently, these programs are being offered at no cost, and a suggested donation of \$75 per person is greatly appreciated.

To find more information and upcoming dates visit:
<https://ourladyofbethesda.org/programs/retreats/what-are-spiritual-exercises/virtual-spiritual-exercises-promo>.

Here are the texts of two prayers, written by Pope Francis, for the end of the COVID-19 pandemic. He is asking people to recite the rosary and pray these prayers afterward:

First Prayer:

O Mary, You shine continuously on our journey as a sign of salvation and hope. We entrust ourselves to you, Health of the Sick, who, at the foot of the cross, were united with Jesus' suffering, and persevered in your faith.

"Protectress of the Roman people," you know our needs, and we know that you will provide, so that, as at Cana in Galilee, joy and celebration may return after this time of trial. Help us, Mother of Divine Love, to conform ourselves to the will of the Father and to do what Jesus tells us. For he took upon himself our suffering, and burdened himself with our sorrows to bring us, through the cross, to the joy of the Resurrection. Amen.

We fly to your protection, O Holy Mother of God; Do not despise our petitions in our necessities, but deliver us always from every danger, O Glorious and Blessed Virgin.

Second Prayer:

"We fly to your protection, O Holy Mother of God." In the present tragic situation, when the whole world is prey to suffering and anxiety, we fly to you, Mother of God and our mother, and seek refuge under your protection.

Virgin Mary, turn your merciful eyes toward us amid this coronavirus pandemic. Comfort those who are distraught and mourn their loved ones who have died, and at times are buried in a way that grieves them deeply. Be close to those who are concerned for their loved ones who are sick and who, in order to prevent the spread of the disease, cannot be close to them. Fill with hope those who are troubled by the uncertainty of the future and the consequences for the economy and employment.

Mother of God and our Mother, pray for us to God, the father of mercies, that this great suffering may end and that hope and peace may dawn anew. Plead with your divine Son, as you did at Cana, so that the families of the sick and the victims be comforted, and their hearts be opened to confidence and trust. Protect those doctors, nurses, health workers and volunteers who are on the frontline of this emergency, and are risking their lives to save others. Support their heroic effort and grant them strength, generosity and continued health. Be close to those who assist the sick night and day, and to priests who, in their pastoral concern and fidelity to the Gospel, are trying to help and support everyone.

Blessed Virgin, illumine the minds of men and women engaged in scientific research, that they may find effective solutions to overcome this virus. Support national leaders, that with wisdom, solicitude and generosity they may come to the aid of those lacking the basic necessities of life and may devise social and economic solutions inspired by farsightedness and solidarity.

Second Prayer Cont:

Mary Most Holy, stir our consciences, so that the enormous funds invested in developing and stockpiling arms will instead be spent on promoting effective research on how to prevent similar tragedies from occurring in the future.

Beloved Mother, help us realize that we are all members of one great family and to recognize the bond that unites us, so that, in a spirit of fraternity and solidarity, we can help to alleviate countless situations of poverty and need. Make us strong in faith, persevering in service, constant in prayer.

Mary, Consolation of the afflicted, embrace all your children in distress and pray that God will stretch out his all-powerful hand and free us from this terrible pandemic, so that life can serenely resume its normal course. To you, who shine on our journey as a sign of salvation and hope, do we entrust ourselves, O Clement, O Loving, O Sweet Virgin Mary. Amen.

Celebration of the Sacraments of Initiation and the Rite of Reception Into Full Communion of the Catholic Church:

On Saturday, July 18, at the 5:00pm mass, part of the Elect and Candidates at our parish will undergo the final step of RCIA and receive the Sacraments of Initiation and enjoy full communion with the Church. We understand that many of you may not be able to physically attend, however, the RCIA team asks that you please pray for the Candidates and Elect as they steady themselves for the graces that they will receive.



RCIA
A Journey In Faith

Quo Vadis One-Day Event:

The Office of Priest Vocations will hold a *Quo Vadis* one-day event on **Sunday, August 2 from 9:00 am - 7:00pm** at St. John Paul II Seminary. High-school aged young men who desire to grow in holiness will have an opportunity for Mass, sports, talks, fraternity, and lunch and dinner. The event will be conducted by priests and seminarians of the Archdiocese of Washington, along with other adult chaperones. Most of the day will be spent outdoors (weather permitting), and it will feel much like the longer *Quo Vadis* Camp. The cost is \$25. Bus transportation from southern Maryland will be available for an additional \$10. If you know of any strong candidates who would like to learn more about the priesthood, please encourage them to register at dcpriest.org/quo-vadis-event. If you have questions, please call the Office of Priest Vocations at 202-499-1211 or email whitem@adw.org.



Online Natural Family Planning (NFP) Classes in English and Spanish:

Couples can sign up anytime for online NFP classes with any of these providers:

Couple to Couple League - BOMA USA - Creighton Method - Marquette Method.

Classes are also available in Spanish with:

Liga de Pareja a Pareja, BOMA USA Spanish or Método Marquette.

For additional information, contact the archdiocesan Office for Family Life at 301-853-4546 or visiblesign@adw.org.

National NFP Awareness Week: July 19 - 25:

July 19 marks the first day of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) National NFP Awareness Week that runs from July 19-25. The theme for this year is "Live the truth and beauty of God's plan for married love". For available resources, please contact the Office for Family Life at 301-853-4546 or send an email to visiblesign@adw.org.

Online Marriage Preparation Classes from August 11 - 20:

In order to assist pastors with Marriage Preparation for couples who will be receiving the Sacrament of Marriage this fall, the archdiocesan Office for Family Life will be offering a virtual Marriage Preparation Class from August 11 - 20 for 4 evening sessions:

August 11, 13, 18, 20 from 7:00 – 9:30pm.

Couples must attend all four sessions. Space is limited. Couples can call our office at 301-853-4546 or send an email to visiblesign@adw.org.

Visit: <https://adw.org/categories/marriage-preparation/> for the archdiocesan Marriage Preparation event page.

Natural
Family
Planning

PRO-WOMAN | PRO-MAN | PRO-CHILD

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 deceased brothers and sisters, especially **Kathleen Kelley**.

A Million Rosaries:

Every prayer counts! Please join the Little Sisters of the Poor in praying one million Rosaries to conquer the coronavirus pandemic. Sign up for the one million Rosary campaign at: <http://littlesistersofthepoor.org>.

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:

The Sunday meal for the poor and homeless, which traditionally has been held from 4:00-6:00 pm in the OLOL cafeteria, has been temporarily converted to a "carry-out" affair. If you are interested in helping to provide food for the meal, send an email to OLOLSundayMeal@gmail.com or call **Dan Keen at 301-564-0077**.

The "clothes closet" run in conjunction with the meal has been temporarily suspended. Please hold on to donations for the clothes closet until we can reopen. Contact Dan Keen if you have any questions. Thank you!

Finance & Administration:

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



Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time Offertory 2020: Figures unavailable.

Our July Poor Box will be going to the Assumption Outreach Program. It is a food pantry that provides food to struggling families year-round. Donations during the summer months are particularly important to families with children who would otherwise be receiving meals at their schools. We would prefer monetary or gift card donations. Thank you in advance your generosity.

We encourage you to upkeep your contributions to the parish during these difficult times. Please feel free to mail your contributions to the parish office at 7500 Pearl Street Bethesda, Maryland 20814 or drop them off in the rectory door slot. This includes all special collection envelopes or simply an envelope with your name clearly marked.

We would also like to encourage our online contribution program, Faith Direct. Please use the following link to donate online:

<https://membership.faithdirect.net/givenow/MD33>

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 – 19 de Julio de 2020

Medita lo que te dice el evangelio de hoy

Jesús sabe lo que hace. El Evangelio de hoy presenta tres parábolas en las que se narra cómo un trabajo oculto, que no podemos ver da siempre fruto. Así es el trabajo de Dios en nuestra vida. Es un trabajo oculto, el cual no veo y, muchas veces, ni siquiera me doy cuenta qué pasa. Sin embargo, la gracia de Dios va actuando en mi alma.

Jesús sabe cuándo es el momento adecuado. Él actúa siempre en mi alma para acercarla más y más hacia Él. Lo único que tengo que hacer es confiar en Él. Podrán venir dificultades, momentos difíciles, pruebas, pero siempre debo de tener la certeza de que Jesús sabe lo que está haciendo, que Él cuida de mí. Al igual que una semilla de mostaza o un grano de trigo, mi alma va dando fruto poco a poco, de manera callada y casi invisible. Pero Jesús siempre está ahí para velar por mí, para cuidar de mí. No tengo porque desesperar, porque preocuparme ya que Él nunca me abandona. Su gracia y su amor siempre me acompañan.

«La justicia propuesta por Jesús no es un simple conjunto de reglas aplicadas técnicamente, sino una disposición del corazón que guía a los que tienen responsabilidades. La gran exhortación del Evangelio es establecer la justicia ante todo dentro de nosotros, luchando con fuerza para marginar la cizaña que nos habita. Para Jesús es de ingenuos pensar que podamos arrancar todas las raíces de mal dentro de nosotros sin dañar también el grano bueno (cf. Mt 13, 24-30). Pero la vigilancia sobre nosotros mismos, con la consiguiente lucha interior, nos ayuda a no dejar que el mal predomine sobre el bien». (Homilía de S.S. Francisco, 15 de febrero de 2020).

Precauciones en contra del COVID:

- Por favor use máscaras y alcohol desinfectante y mantenga la distancia de 6 pies
- Capacidad es limitada por cada sección de banca por persona o miembros de la misma familia
- No se pasará la colecta, pero las cajas del ofertorio estarán disponibles
- Por el momento sólo el sacerdote distribuirá la Comunión
- En la línea mantenga seis pies de distancia
- Le pedimos que aquellos que reciban en la mano se aproximen primero, seguidos de aquellos que reciben en la lengua
- Vaya despacio, párese derecho con la mano plenamente extendida o extienda la lengua para evitar la ocasión de contacto
- Como siempre, si usted está estornudando o tosiendo, por favor auséntese
- Entre las misas nuestro equipo de trabajo estará limpiando las bancas y las superficies para su seguridad
- Gracias por su paciencia mientras seguimos adelante

**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: _____