

JANUARY 29, 2017

4TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Dear Parishioners,

Today opens the national observance of Catholic Schools Week (CSW), and it's an opportunity to reflect on and thank God for the great blessing that our school is to us as a parish and the community as a whole.

We are blessed with a dedicated principal in Mrs. Patricia McDermott and an equally devoted and loving faculty. Recently I happily overheard a number of our teachers talking about the novenas they are making – we are fortunate to have a faculty that not only teaches the Faith but tries so hard to live it out and model it for our students. Our students, of course, are our greatest blessing and the reason we work so hard at sharing not only academic knowledge but knowledge and love of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

How many of you, our parishioners, claim status as alumni?! And not only one generation, but several generations of alumni?! This is one of the things that make the deepest impression on me: that so many of you were formed right here in our parish school and still have such fond memories and commitment to your alma mater.

No doubt we can say that St. Mary's Catholic School has played a vital role in contributing to the good of society here in Hagerstown and beyond for 142 years and counting!

It's a privilege for me to be able to serve a school with such great kids, faculty and alumni. I look forward to seeing the students each day at Mass, in the halls and classrooms, and on the playground.

Thank you to everyone who helps make our school the beautiful and holy place that it is!

We are proud to support St. Maria Goretti High School as well, where many of our St. Mary's graduates and parishioners in general go for a quality high school education, and where several of our parishioners teach.

Please join me in praying for our students and faculty that they (and we) may grow each day to be better disciples of our Lord.

Finally, if you did not hear my homily last week, I would like to ask you to consider giving it a prayerful reading in the next few days. It's printed here in the bulletin on account of this past Friday's 44th March for Life. Thank you for your consideration.

God bless you and keep you in His care,

Father Cibelli

St. Mary Stewardship Blessings

1/22/2017	Attendance	826
Offertory		\$8886.81
Online Giving		2,421.70
School Support		1,785.00
Total		
Amount Needed**		\$15,239
**This is the amount of weekly collection that would allow St. Mary to break even for fiscal year 2016		
Poor Box		\$163.98
Other		247.00
*Not used for St. Mary operating expenses		

Next Sunday's second collection is for Embracing Our Mission.

Thank you!

St. Michael Stewardship Blessings

1/22/2017	Attendance	47
Offertory		\$543.00
School Support		25.00
Poor Box		24.02
Votive Candles		14.00
Total		\$606.02
Amount Needed** \$749		
**This is the amount of weekly collection that would allow St. Michael to break even for fiscal year 2016		
*Not used for St. Michael operating expenses		

The flowers on all the altars are in loving memory of Francis "Hazel" Bowers from her daughter., Bonnie Bowers.

ALL LITURGICAL MINISTERS:

Please send your availability for the months of March, April, and May (INCLUDING Stations of the Cross, Holy Week, and Easter availability) to **Trevor Rowland** no later than **Tuesday, February 7th**.

Contact trowland@saintmarysonline.org or 301-739-0390 x119



Please pray for James "Jim" Shives, husband of Shirley.

May he rest in the Peace of Christ!

Prayer for our Troops

Lord, hold our troops in your loving hands.
Protect them as they protect us.
Bless them and their families for the selfless acts they perform for us in our time of need.

And give us peace.

We ask this in the name of Jesus,
Our Lord and Savior.

Amen.

Contribution Statement: Contribution statements are available. If you would like a contribution statement, please call Paula at 301-739-0390, ext. 110. You can then pick up your statement, emailed, or have it mailed to you. If you made a contribution of \$250 or more at any one time, you will automatically receive a statement, in accordance with IRS requirements.

St. Mary Church Holy Mass Intentions
January 23—29, 2017

Day	Date	Mass	Mass Intention
Monday	1/30	6:30	Felicia Koval
		8:30	Special Intentions of Amy Savary
Tuesday	1/31	6:30	Austin Michael Wigfield
		8:30	For All Departed Souls
Wednesday	2/1	6:30	Special Intentions of the Rohr Family
		8:30	Frieda Russman
Thursday	2/2	6:30	Special Intentions of Daniel Skinner
		8:30	Helen Pauline McDermott
Friday	2/3	6:30	Roberta Kufera
		8:30	Kevin Donoghue
Saturday	2/4	8:30	Charles E. Hurd
		5:15	Bill Hudson
Sunday	2/5	8:00	James & Joan St. Ledger
		9:30	In Honor of St. Joseph
		11:00	Robert L. Grimsley
		12:50	Frank Brown



The **hosts** being used for the month of January have been donated by an anonymous donor.



The **candles** being used for the month of January have been donated by an anonymous donor.

The wine being used for the month of January has been donated by an anonymous donor.

St. Michael Mass Intention

St. Mary's and St. Michael's Parishioners

Correction:

January 23 8:30 Mass was for Xavier Fernandes.

(We apologize for the misspelled last name)

Readings for January 22—29, 2017

Sunday 1/29	FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME Zephaniah 2:3, 3:12-13 / 1st Corinthians 1:26-31 / Matthew 5:1-12a
Monday 1/30	Hebrew 11:32-40/ Mark 5:1-20
Tuesday 1/31	ST. JOHN BOSCO, PRIEST Hebrew 12:1-4 / Mark 5:21-43
Wednesday 2/1	Hebrew 12:4-7, 11-15 / Mark 6:1-6
Thursday 2/2	THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD Malachi 3:1-4 / Hebrew 2:14-18/Luke 2:22-40
Friday 2/3	ST. BLAISE, BISHOP & MARTYR; ST. ANSGAR, BISHOP Hebrew 13:1-8 / Mark 6:14-29
Saturday 2/4	BVM Hebrew 13:15-17, 20-21 / Mark 6:30-34
Sunday 2/5	FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME Isaiah 58:7-10 / 1st Corinthians 2:1-5 / Matthew 5:13-16

Announcement of Easter and the Moveable Feasts (for the year 2017)

After the Gospel on the Feast of the Epiphany is sung the following:

Know, dear brothers and sisters,
that, as we have rejoiced at the Nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ,
so by leave of God's mercy
we announce to you also the joy of his Resurrection,
who is our Savior.

On the first day of March will fall Ash Wednesday,
and the beginning of the fast of the most sacred Lenten season.

On the sixteenth day of April you will celebrate with joy Easter Day,
the Paschal feast of our Lord Jesus Christ.

On the twenty-eighth day of May will be the Ascension of our Lord Jesus Christ.

On the fourth day of June, the feast of Pentecost.

On the eighteenth day of June the feast of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ.

On the third day of **December**, the First Sunday of the Advent of our Lord Jesus Christ,
to whom is honor and glory for ever and ever.

Amen.

ASK THE PRIEST

Father,

What can I say to someone who was raised Catholic but left the Church?

Here are ten reasons to come back to the Catholic Church

10. Nearly two thousand years of history, art, and learning.
9. It is counter cultural; be a rebel
8. A family of over a billion brothers and sisters.
7. We miss you.
6. You may avoid going to hell.
5. The Catholic Church was founded by Jesus Christ, Son God, in the year A.D. 33.
4. Our hearts are restless, O Lord, until they rest in YOU.
3. God loves you so much, He died on the cross for you.
2. You can receive The Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity of Jesus Christ
1. It will help you to spend ETERNITY in the Divine Life of the Trinity.

“Ask The Priest” is a continuing feature of the Bulletin. If you have a question regarding the Catholic faith, please place your question in the box on the back table.

The Daughters of Charity of St. Vincent de Paul *Serving Christ in the Person of the Poor since 1633*



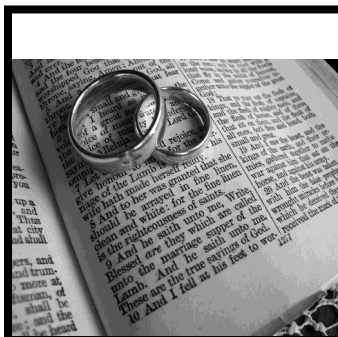
The Daughters of Charity are offering a **“Come and See”** vocation retreat weekend **March 3-5, 2017**. Single Catholic women ages 18-40 interested in a vocation as a Sister are invited to attend. The retreat will be held at the National Shrine of Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton in Emmitsburg, MD. If interested please contact: Sr. Mary Frances Barnes, D.C. at 410-646-2074 or dcvoc@doc.org. www.daughters-of-charity.com

Help Promote Vocations!

The Archdiocesan Office of Vocations would like your help to connect with young discerners. If you know a young Catholic man who is discerning or open to discerning his vocation, whatever it may be, please submit his name in our Called by Name campaign by January 31. We will be sending these men invitations to discernment events.

Your submission could help a man find his true vocation!

Submit names at www.bmorevocations.com.



Husbands and Wives! The CHERISH Retreat on Saturday, February 11 at St. Mary Catholic Church in Hagerstown MD from 1:00 — 9:00pm, has been planned just for the both of you! CHERISH stands for **C**atholic **H**earts **E**spoused **R**ejoice **i**n **S**acramental **H**ope. The retreat includes a reflection for married couples from Fr. Matt Buening: "Living Your Marriage Abundantly." Additionally, there will be Saturday Evening Vigil Mass, opportunities for confession, dinner and more. Free will donations accepted. RSVP by **Feb 7** at the cherishcouples.net website or by calling 301-797-6493.

The Sacrament of Baptism

Baptism is God's most beautiful and magnificent gift....

We call it gift, grace, anointing, enlightenment, garment of immortality, bath of rebirth, seal, and most precious gift. It is called *gift* because it is conferred on those who bring nothing of their own; *grace* since it is given even to the guilty; *Baptism* because sin is buried in the water; *anointing* for it is priestly and royal as are those who are anointed; *enlightenment* because it radiates light; *clothing* since it veils our shame; *bath* because it washes; and *seal* as it is our guard and the sign of God's Lordship.

St. Mary's offers the **gift of baptism** on the **second and fourth Saturdays** of each month at **12:30pm**. **Baptism Class** is scheduled the first Sunday of each month in the **Conference Room of the Parish Center from 12:30 to 1:30pm**.

It is very important that babies be baptized as soon as possible and preferably within six weeks of birth. Therefore, Fr. Cibelli is offering this sacrament more often. A good precedence would be, as soon as parents begin to announce their pregnancy, to call and schedule their baptism agenda shortly after.

Call the Parish Office 301-739-0390 ext. 110, Paula will assist you.

SCHOOL NEWS

Introducing - Take A Look Tuesdays

Prospective parents and students are invited to visit Saint Mary Catholic School each

Tuesday from 9:00 – 11:00 a.m.

Staff members will be available to give tours and to answer questions of prospective parents.

Witness student participation in the classroom, observe a typical day, feel the energy in our hallways, and watch the children socialize during break. What a great chance to see SMCS students in action!

Stop by and see for yourself why St. Mary Catholic School is the right place for your student.

Registration Now Open!

Registration for the 2017-2018 school year for Pre-K 4 through 7th Grade is now Open.

Call or email Rachel O'Connor at 301-733-1184 or roconnor@stmarycatholicsschool.org for an information packet and/or a tour.

Starting New for 2017-2018:

St. Mary Catholic School is excited to announce a Full Day option (8:15 AM – 2:45 PM) will be available for our Pre-K 4 program.

The Half Day option is from 8:15 AM – 11:30 AM. Space is limited so don't delay. Call or email Rachel O'Connor at 301-733-1184 or roconnor@stmarycatholicsschool.org for an information packet and/or a tour.

Welcome Grants

Students who are currently enrolled in public school who wish to transfer to St. Mary Catholic School are eligible to receive a tuition grant for \$2,000 off the first year's tuition and \$1,000 off the second year's tuition.

A limited number of grants are available to students actively participating in a Catholic parish. Grants will be available from January 20th until May 1st, 2017 for Grades 2nd through 5th only.

Catholic Schools Week Kick-Off

Our **Scholastic Book Fair** will be set-up in Fatima Hall. Come see the great selection.

An Open House and Tours for prospective new students and families will also be available from **9:00 AM to Noon.**

Tickets for pancake and omelets will be available at the door.

Confirmation — Immediate Preparation Classes for Confirmation students will be held in Fatima Hall the parish Center every Wednesday until March 8, 2017. Sign in time is 6:15PM. All Confirmandi must attend these classes.

You are invited to attend an upcoming **TransCanada Open House** on **February 9, 2017** from **6-8 PM** at the **Hancock Town Hall** in Hancock, MD. TransCanada employees will host a public discussion on their new natural gas transmission pipeline which will run from Hancock, MD to Berkeley Springs, WV.

SVDP— One way to approach the Beatitudes is in terms of their being descriptions of identity rather than moral demands. The Beatitudes embody a radically alternative vision of our Society. This is how the kingdom of heaven is at hand: that we appreciate that we are in ourselves are blessed. Blessed is who we are in Christ. God indeed calls us to blessedness. (Living Liturgy, p.54)

The St. Mary Conference of the St. Vincent de Paul Society was established in 1954. In 2016, the SVdPS helped approximately 400 members of our community. Types of assistance included eviction prevention, utility shut-off prevention and food vouchers. Anyone experiencing a hardship is encouraged to contact the SVdPS (301-739-0390 ext. 124).

Assistance to the poor and suffering is provided through your donations to the Poor Box. Thank you!

Anyone suffering through a hardship is encouraged to contact the Saint Vincent de Paul Society for assistance. Phone 301-739-0390 ext 124.

PANGBORN KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

- ◆ **New council website for keeping informed of council news:** www.kofc1365.org
- ◆ **Brotherhood Council Meetings 2nd & 4th Thursdays at 8pm** in the Council Hall. Our Trustee for 2016-2017 is Cel Shannon. For information, please contact Cel Shannon at cel_s67@hotmail.com.
- ◆ **Bingo Bingo Bingo.** Every Tuesday at the **Knights of Columbus Hall (20340 Leitersburg Pike, Hagerstown, MD 21742)** Starting at 6:45 pm we conduct 34 bingo games for the public. Please join us and have fun.
- ◆ Every practical Catholic man over the age of 18 should become a Knight. We need your help. Speak with a night about joining our order.
- ◆ The Knights of Columbus has launched a FREE smartphone app on Android and Apple iOS platforms that show what the Order has to offer eligible Catholic men and their families! Featuring an overview of the Orders work in providing security to families, as well as its charitable and Church activities, The "Knights of Columbus: Join Us" app is a concise and engaging way to share with potential new members the good works and insurance protection made possible by K of C membership. Users can also access an online form which they can complete as a first step in becoming a Knight! The app is available for FREE download through iTunes or the Google Play store.
- ◆
- ◆ Pangborn Assembly of the Knights of Columbus will host **Italian Night Dinner & Dancing Saturday, February 18th opening at 6:30pm at the Columbus Hall on Leitersburg Pike.** Donation \$12.00 & children under 12 \$6. Contact Fred Nugent for advanced ticket sales at FNugent@verizon.net.
- ◆ All Bingo Tuesdays will be **HALF PRICE** on regular games during the month of February!
- ◆ Knights: Annual Dues Notices have been sent. Please remit timely.