

A Message from Our Pastor...

Dear Parishioners,

Now that we are a few days into Lent and we have come to the First Sunday of Lent, the question may arise: should we do penance on Sunday? Admittedly the Church does not prohibit self-denial on Sunday. St. Jose Maria Escriva recommends a simple act of self-denial each day. But should we do the full extent of our fast on a Sunday? St. Gregory the Great, from the sixth century, gives us some insight into this question.

In the time of St. Gregory, Lent began on a Sunday, with the Gospel passage of the Lord's fast in the desert. St. Gregory considered the number of days that the Church spent fasting to be a *tithe* of time to the Lord. Recall that a tithe is, strictly speaking, 10%. So 10% of 365 is approximately 36 days. If we count from the First Sunday of Lent to Holy Saturday we get 42 days. If we subtract the six Sundays in this time span, we arrive at 36.

But there was uneasiness in the Roman Church as well: If the Lord fasted for 40 days, should not we fast the same number of days? The solution was to begin Lent four days earlier, and this brings us to Ash Wednesday.

Apart from it being interesting to learn how the length of time for the Lenten season came about, this fact also says something to us about the character of Sunday. Whether the goal was a tithe of the days of the year or the number of days the Lord fasted in the desert, Sunday is not counted in the number of days of explicit penance. This is a reminder that even in penitential seasons, Sunday is a day for rejoicing in the Lord's resurrection.

Therefore, Sunday should be a day not of unrestrained indulgence, but of rest and recreation along with service that lift up our souls to God in love, grateful that He loves us enough to suffer, die, and rise for us. The chief activity, the one thing we are required to do, as part of this is to worship God at Sunday Mass (which can be fulfilled in anticipation on Saturday evening). For at Mass we are united to the Lord's offering of Himself on the Cross and to His rising to new life. While Lent is a preparation for Easter Sunday, we do not fail to celebrate the Lord's rising each week. This should be reflected even in terms of what we do during the hours of the day during which we are *not* at Mass – reflected even in a joyful but moderate use of the blessings that come from God's creation.

God bless you and keep you in His care,

Father Cibelli

P.S. As of the bulletin deadline, it looks like everything may have come together that by the time you are reading this, the speakers in church have been mounted to the walls... you'll certainly be able to tell one way or another! However, if the job was not actually completed this past week, it should be finished for next Sunday. Thank you to everyone who gave your feedback. If there are any further simple, cost-effective ways to improve the system beyond the relocation of speakers, we will explore them. The overwhelming consensus is that this a better location for the speakers.

PLEASE pray for those who are in our RCIA class as they make final preparations for entering the Catholic Church at the Easter Vigil.

March 5, 2017

First Sunday of Lent

St. Mary Stewardship Blessings

2/26/2017	Attendance	851
Offertory		\$10,447.78
Online Giving		2,401.70
Capital Improvement		10.00
Total		\$12,859.48
Amount Needed**		\$15,239
**This is the amount of weekly collection that would allow St. Mary to break even for fiscal year 2017		
School Support		\$257.00
Poor Box		113.86
*Not used for St. Mary operating expenses		

St. Michael Stewardship Blessings

2/26/2017	Attendance	38
Offertory		\$367.00
Amount Needed** \$749		
**This is the amount of weekly collection that would allow St. Michael to break even for fiscal year 2017 *Not used for St. Michael operating expenses		

St. Michael will have Stations of the Cross on Fridays during Lent at 6:30pm. (March 3rd, 10th, 17th, 24th and 31st.)

We will gather as a parish family for supper after Stations of the Cross on the following dates: Friday, March 17th and Friday, March 24th.

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.

This week's second collection is for Embracing Our Mission.

Next week's second collection is for School Support.

Thank you for your generosity!

First Communion

All children making their First Communion need to be preparing for their interviews. Please call Jan at 301-739-0390 extension 129 to schedule an interview with Fr. Cibelli.

Confirmation

All children receiving Confirmation need to be preparing for their interviews. Please call Jan at 301-739-0390 ext 129 to schedule an interview with Fr. Cibelli.



The **hosts** being used for the month of March have been donated by **The Legion of Mary.**

St. Mary Church Holy Mass Intentions
March 6 — 12, 2017

Day	Date	Mass	Intention
Monday	3/6	6:30 8:30	Special Intentions of Dorothy Grace Special Intentions of Margie Daley
Tuesday	3/7	6:30 8:30	The Shane & Chay Families Special Intentions of Emma Ortiz
Wednesday	3/8	6:30 8:30	The Viola & Tescan Families Special Intentions of Bud & Catherine Corrigan
Thursday	3/9	6:30 8:30	Ish Biddle Special Intentions of Eleanor Carroll
Friday	3/10	6:30 8:30	The Law & Frances Santos Families Special Intentions of Maria & Ted Axline
Saturday	3/11	8:30 5:15	Special Intentions of Dorothy Grace Bill Hudson
Sunday	3/12	8:00 9:30 11:00 12:50	Special Intentions of Bud Corrigan John Marie Fraticelli In Honor of St. Joseph Special Intentions of Pauline Allison

St. Michael Mass Intention

St. Mary & St. Michael Parishioners

Readings for March 5 — 12, 2017

Sunday 3/5	FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT Genesis 2:7-9; 3:1-7 / Roman 5:12-19 / Matthew 4:1-11
Monday 3/6	Lenten Weekday Leviticus 19:1-2, 11-18 / Matthew 25:31-46
Tuesday 3/7	Lenten Weekday — Saints Perpetua and Felicity, Martyrs Isaiah 55:10-11 / Matthew 6:7-15
Wednesday 3/8	Lenten Weekday — Saint John of God, Religious John 3:1-10 / Luke 11:29-32
Thursday 3/9	Lenten weekday — Saint Frances of Rome, Religious Esther C:12, 14-16, 23-25 / Matthew 7:7-12
Friday 3/10	Lenten Weekday Ezekiel 18:21-28 / Matthew 5:20-26
Saturday 3/11	Lenten Weekday Deuteronomy 26:16-19 / Matthew 5:43-48
Sunday 3/12	SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT Genesis 12:1-4a / 2nd Timothy 1:8b-10 / Matthew 17:1-9

The 13th of the Month Fatima Prayer Group
meets at 12 noon in the church for prayer.

It does not meet when the 13th falls on Sunday.

All are welcome please join us!

SVDP—

Assistance to the poor and suffering is provided through your donations to the **Poor Box**.

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

REMINDER



Daylight Savings Time (United States) begins

Sunday, March 12, 2017, at 2:00 A.M.

Remember to set your clocks ahead one hour.

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.

Worldwide Marriage Encounter

“Then the eyes of both of them were opened,” Let us appreciate the totality of our spouses by taking part in a Worldwide Marriage Encounter weekend on April 21-23, 2017 or October 27-29, 2017 in Gaithersburg, MD. For more information and to apply online visit welovematrimony.org, or call 301-541-7007, or email at applications@welovematrimony.org.

"Entonces fueron abiertos los ojos de ambos", Nos dejan apreciar la totalidad de nuestros esposos por participar en un fin de semana de Encuentro Matrimonial Mundial en 6 y 7 de mayo, y el 11 y 12 de noviembre de 2017. ¡Su matrimonio se merece este regalo! Para inscribirse o pedir información, llamar a Cipriano y Mayra Vera al 301-335-7798, o a Baltazar y Gloria Ortiz al 301-879-4411.

ASK THE PRIEST

Father,

Is a sin a sin, if the doer of it does not know it?

Sin is any thought, word, or deed that separates from God and the person that God calls us to be. Therefore, if you do something that separates you from the love of God, it is a sin. Thoughts, words, and deeds have an objective reality. Some things are wrong and some things are right, and that never changes. Some sins are so serious that they can break our relationship with God. They are called mortal sins. Mortal sins “kill” our relationship with God. Those who die in a state of unrepented mortal sin, go to hell. There are some sins that do not break our relationship with God, but only weaken it. These sins are called venial sins. In order to commit a mortal sin, three things are necessary: 1.) grave or serious matter, 2.) deliberate consent of the will, 3.) and full knowledge. If one of these three things is missing, the sin is not mortal but venial, but it is still a sin (i.e. it is still wrong). For instance, missing Mass on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation is grave matter. If we do not come to Mass, we are telling Jesus that those nails in His hands and feet do not mean anything and I have something better to do. If you choose sports, or ballet, or sleeping in, or you just don’t feel like it, you are telling Jesus you do not think He is important enough to come to Mass; and that is VERY serious. Missing Mass on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation is grave (serious) matter. Suppose, you are coming to Mass and the car breaks down, suppose it snowed and they did not plow the roads, suppose you are very sick and can’t get out of bed. You want to come to Mass and tell Jesus how much you love Him, but something is stopping you from what you want to do. Maybe you are too young or too old to drive a car and you have no one to take you to Mass. You do not have deliberate consent of the will. You want to do what is right, but something or someone is preventing you. The other thing that can lessen your responsibility is lack of full knowledge. Suppose you were so sick that you were unconscious and you did not realize that it was Sunday. Not only did you not have deliberate consent of the will, since you were unconscious you did not have full knowledge that it was Sunday. Suppose that you went on a trip, and you forgot what day it was when you got home. You were planning to go to Mass, but you did not realize that it was Sunday. Suppose you were planning to go to Mass, and when you got to the church, you noticed that the only Mass available was at 9 am and you thought it was a 11 am. These sorts of situations do not change whether the action was wrong, but it does change whether or not you are responsible for your actions. The other thing that the Church teaches us is that pretending not to know is just as serious as simply saying “I am going to do anyway.” So whether a sin is venial or mortal, it is always best to tell God that you are sorry for hurting Him by going to the Sacrament of Confession, because then you can be sure that your sin is forgiven.

“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.

Volunteers Urgently Needed for Mary's Center

Mary's Center, Inc. a Catholic Pregnancy Center, is seeking volunteers for its Hagerstown Center. If you are able to donate a few hours each week to help women and teens in a crisis pregnancy or in need of material assistance for their babies, please call the Center at 301-739-1234 or Ann at 301-790-1686. New volunteer training will begin March 7.

RESPECT LIFE: Lent began on Ash Wednesday, March 1. 40 Days for Life began the same day and goes through Palm Sunday, April 9. Most people give up something for Lent – sometimes a serious sacrifice, sometimes not so serious.

Could you - would you - can you - please make a sacrifice of your time this Lent?

All over the country, God-fearing men, women and children are standing up, and offering prayerful presence outside the local abortion facility where mothers are on the verge of destroying God's greatest gift – the life of their unborn child. We need people to come and pray at the Hagerstown abortion facility, 160 W. Washington St. (just 3 doors from St. Mary Church). We pray that you will come and offer prayerful presence on one or two of the days each week when women are in danger: Would you please come for an hour?

This is every Thursday (about noon to 2:30 p.m.); and every other Tuesday (9 a.m. to noon), and every other Saturday (11 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.). This week it is open Thursday, March 9 and Saturday, March 11. The following week it will be open Tuesday, March 14 and Thursday, March 16.

When we show up and pray, hearts and minds are changed, and babies lives are saved, and women are saved from a lifetime of regret. The power of prayer is triumphing over the evil that is abortion. We have had 450 babies saved at the local facility over the past ten years, in addition to another possible 450 we do not know about. Former abortuary workers tell us the number of no-shows go way up if there is a pro-life presence out front.

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 Council of the Knights of Columbus will host **St. Patrick Celebration Dinner & Dance Saturday, March 18th opening at 6:00pm at the Columbus Hall on Leitersburg Pike.** Donation \$15.00 & children under 12 \$6. Contact Fred Nugent for advanced ticket sales at FNugent@verizon.net.

SCHOOL NEWS

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.

Introducing - Take A Look Tuesdays

SMCS staff will be available every Tuesday from 9:00 am – 11:00 am to give you a tour and provide information about St. Mary Catholic School.

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

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.

Good S.A.M.'s for February 2017

K – Vincent DiFonzo	1 – Lance Sweet	2 – Mia Nitzell
3 – Spencer Byers	4 – Claire O'Connor	5 – Sullivan McGreevy
6 – Olivia Dyson	7 – Matthew Stine	8 – Morgan McMahan

Pre-K Story Time will be held on **Wednesday, March 15th at Noon.**

Join Mrs. Stark and Sister Aloysius for a story, activity, and snack.

This is a free activity but a parent must accompany the child.

Please R.S.V.P. by March 13th to Rachel O'Connor at 301-733-1184.

Steubenville summer youth conferences. Saint Mary's is again taking a contingent to the summer youth conferences at The Franciscan University of Steubenville. This is an incredible experience for high school youth to experience their Catholic faith with over 2,000 other young people. There are Dynamic speakers, breakout sessions, contemporary music and wonderful opportunities to encounter our Lord more deeply. If you or your child or someone you know in high school has not been to this event, it is encouraged for them to try to make it.

July 14-16, 2017

Cost estimate' \$250. Fundraisers will be done to help defray this cost.

\$40 deposit due by March 5, 2017.

Deposit can be turned in at CTG or to the parish office youth ministry.

Contact Todd at 301-491-4881 /

hagerstownhomeseller@gmail.com for more information.



Called to Greatness

Youth Ministry

Meets 1st and 3rd Fridays 7-9

Teens — Join **Called to Greatness March 11** for a hike on the Appalachian Trail. Starting at the Washington Monument in Boonsboro. We will hike for an hour, rest and reflect, and hike back by noon. Meet at 9:30 at the monument parking lot, or join us for 8:30 Mass to carpool over at 9:15. Contact Mary McNeil to RSVP, emmbee@look-ma.com. Must have permission slip. Bring bag lunch. Must carry trash out.