

Dear Parishioners,

While the season of Christmas properly ended this past Monday (or on the Extraordinary Form on January 13) with the feast of the Baptism of the Lord, in certain ways it subtly continues until the feast of the Presentation of the Lord. Hence, as we did last year, the Nativity scene remains up in church and the Christmas Tree in the Parish Center as a way to keep meditating on the mystery of the Lord's Incarnation. To mark this final feast of Christmas, please join us at 6:00 pm on Friday, February 2 for a special Mass in the Extraordinary Form (often called Candlemas) where candles will be blessed – if you bring your candles at least 15 minutes before Mass, they can be included in the blessing.

Please remember that Archbishop Lori will come to St. Mary's next Sunday for Mass at 4:00 pm to formally install me as pastor. I hope we can have a full church for him (of course, for the Lord first! But it should not be lost on us that the Archbishop, as a successor to the Apostles, represents the Lord in a very special way for us in the Archdiocese of Baltimore!).

I'll be back later in the day this Sunday having spent the past two weeks working on finishing my doctoral dissertation. As of this writing, I am pleased at the progress being made, but there is still more to do. Thank you for your prayers for this intention. And thank you to Father Jon Kightlinger for assisting with Mass and Confessions in my absence.

May God bless you and keep you in His care, and may the Blessed Mother intercede for you,

Father Cibelli

P.S. For anyone who didn't see last Sunday's Bulletin, in my column I talked about the feast days whose dates change from year to year depending on when Easter is celebrated. I also included the year's holy days of obligation. I reprint the holy days of obligation here for your convenience. Please mark your calendars now – this is a great way of putting the Lord more and more at the center of our lives. God will not be out-done in generosity, so when we make time for Him, He makes even more time for us!

Holy Days of Obligation for the year 2018 (those days, in addition to Sundays, we are obliged to worship God at Mass):

August 15, Wednesday, – The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary (St. Mary's patronal feast day)

November 1, Thursday – All Saints Day

December 8, Saturday – The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary (Our Nation's patronal feast day)

December 25, Tuesday – The Nativity of the Lord (Christmas)

January 1, 2019, Tuesday – Mary, the Holy Mother of God

Special Celebration Mass

January 21, 2018 at 4:00 P.M.

Archbishop Lori will be celebrating the Installation Mass for Fr. Cibelli as Pastor of St. Mary's Church.

A reception will follow.

Further information will be provided in the coming weeks.

1/7/2018	Attendance	785
Offertory	\$8,749.40	
Online Giving	\$3,884.20	
Christmas	190.00	
Solemnity of Mary	417.00	
Total	\$13,240.60	
Amount Needed** \$15,239		
**This is the amount of weekly collection that would allow St. Mary to break even for fiscal year 2017		
*Poor Box	\$221.55	
EOM	\$169.17	
Other	5.00	
Other		

1/7/2018	Attendance	36
Offertory	\$599.00	
Amount Needed** \$749		
**This is the amount of weekly collection that would allow St. Michael to break even for fiscal year 2017		

Knights of Columbus

Another benefit of being a Knight: Accidental death coverage for member and spouse at no cost.

Come find out more about the Knights of Columbus Information Night Wednesday, February 7th at 7pm at St. Joseph Church Parish Hall at 17630 Virginia Avenue in Hagerstown. Refreshments will be served.

Our Lady of Lourdes Rosary Crusade, Sat., Jan. 13, 2018, from 10:30–11:30am, at the Natl. Shrine Grotto of our Lady of Lourdes, The Grotto Cave, Mount Mary’s Univ., Emmitsburg, MD. Come join us in prayer and bring your family and friends! Questions? Call Pat Oliver at 301-845-8253. Rosary Crusades are **always on the second Saturday of each month, 10:30-11:30am, at the National Shrine Grotto of Our Lady of Lourdes.** As Blessed Mother Teresa said “Everything begins with prayer.”

Father,

I have been seeing these papers left in church that says “Make 81 copies and leave nine copies in the church for nine consecutive days. You will receive your intention before the nine days are over- no matter how impossible it may seem.” Is this true?

If it is true why do not I have a billion dollars and look 30 years younger? These type of “prayers” are not really prayers at all but are dangerous superstitions. I remember praying such a prayer that was never supposed to fail, but it did. It led to a crisis in my faith. First of all, these prayers are dangerous because it can lead one to doubt the existence of God and the true teachings of the Catholic Faith. Secondly, it hinders the true worship of God. God is not some vending machine that you put in your prayers pull the handle and get what you want. You cannot manipulate God in that way. You are also presuming that you know better than God. If God had given me what I prayed for, I wonder whether I would be a priest today. True prayer is where you place your life at God’s service. Your prayer should be “Speak Lord, for your servant is listening” – NOT-- “listen Lord, for your servant is speaking.” The Catechism has this to say about superstitions. Paragraph 2111 reads **“Superstition is the deviation of religious feeling and of the practices this feeling imposes. It can even affect the worship we offer the true God, e.g., when one attributes an importance in some way magical to certain practices otherwise lawful or necessary. To attribute the efficacy of prayers or of sacramental signs to their mere external performance, apart from the interior dispositions that they demand, is to fall into superstition.** Superstitions are a violation of the First Commandment, “I am the Lord your God, you shall not have strange gods before me.”

“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.



Pangborn Knights of Columbus

ITALIAN KNIGHT

DINNER & DANCING

Saturday, January 20th

6:00 PM – 10:00 PM

Columbus Hall

20340 Leitersburg Pike Hagerstown

For ticket information, please e-mail frednugent@myactv.net or call 301-739-9325

Checks payable to Knights of Columbus Pangborn Assembly

Mail to: Fred Nugent – 26 E. Irvin Hagerstown, MD 21742

Menu

Spaghetti / Penne

Sausage or Chicken

Lasagna

Salad

Garlic Bread

Dessert

Beer, Wine & Soft Drinks



Ticket Donation

Adults: \$15.00

Children: \$6.00 for ages 6 – 10

Free for 5 and under

Keep your family & friends together.

Reserve in advance / Pay in advance

A table will be set up in your name.

DJ MUSIC by BARRY GIPP



St. Mary Church Holy Mass Intentions January 15 —21, 2018

Day	Date	Mass	Intention
Monday	1/15	6:30	Jean Jacques
		8:30	Stacey Kijowski
Tuesday	1/16	6:30	Leonard Adamczyk
		8:30	David McLaughlin
Wednesday	1/107	6:30	Teri Missenis
		8:30	Special Intentions of the Lafollette Family
Thursday	1/18	6:30	Holy Souls
		8:30	Jean Jacques
Friday	1/19	6:30	Special Intentions of Jackie & Jim McDonald
		8:30	Special Intentions of Gie & Riza Roxas
Saturday	1/20	8:30	Special Intentions of Jill Bernhard
		5:15	Sister Jiel Bernhard
Sunday	1/21	8:00	James & Joan Ledger
		9:30	Vicki Wood
		11:00	Pauline Allison
		12:50	Vocation to the Priesthood



St. Michael Church 10:30AM January 21, 2018 St. Michael and St. Mary Parishioners

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

Readings for January 14 —21, 2018

Sunday 1/14	Sunday Second Sunday in Ordinary Time 1st Samuel 3:3b-10, 19 / 1st Corinthians 6:13c-15a. 14-20 / John 1:35-42
Monday 1/15	Weekday 1st Samuel 15, 16-23 / Mark 2:18-22
Tuesday 1/16	Weekday 1st Samuel 16:1-13 / Mark 2:23-28
Wednesday 1/17	Saint Anthony, Abbot 1st Samuel 17:32-33, 37, 40-51, / Mark 3:1-6
Thursday 1/18	Weekday 1st Samuel 18:6-9; 19:1-7 / Mark 3:13-19
Friday 1/19	Weekday 1st Samuel 24:3-21 / Mark 3:13-19
Saturday 1/20	St. Fabian, Pope and Martyr; Saint Sebastian, Martyr 1st Samuel 9:1-4, 17-19; 10:1 / Mark 2:13-17
Sunday 1/21	Third Sunday in Ordinary Time John 3:1-5, 10 / 1st Corinthians 7:29-31 / Mark 1:14-20