

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

Dear Parishioners,

Happy Easter! After the forty days of Lent, during which we prepared ourselves to renew our baptismal promises, we now celebrate the resurrection of Jesus Christ and the fact that we have been called to share in His victory over sin and death through our baptism. We also rejoice with all those in our RCIA program who have now been received into full Communion with the Catholic Church. These newly initiated Catholics can teach all of us a great deal about being grateful for the Faith.

Today, most of us I hope will gather with our families for Easter Sunday dinner. But this should not be the end of our celebration. The Easter Season lasts fifty days reminding us that the Lenten call to repentance is topped off by an even longer period of rejoicing in the Lord's mercy on us poor sinners.

We will focus on the Lord's mercy in a special way, **next Sunday**, which is **Divine Mercy Sunday**. In addition to our regular Masses, **we will have a Healing Prayer service at 3pm led by Peter and Michelle Moran**. The prayer service will also include an opportunity to be prayed over for healing. Confessions will be heard from 2:00 until 2:30 pm. All are welcome and feel free to invite your neighbors and friends to come and celebrate the Lord's mercy and healing.

The Morans will also be giving our mission from Monday, April 9th through Wednesday, April 11th. At 11am each day there will be a prayer service & teaching. The evening session will be from 7:00 to 9:00 pm. Confessions will also be heard nightly from 6:00-6:30 pm.

We have so much to celebrate, so many reasons to be joyful. In Christ's death and resurrection, as the old hymn puts it: "the strife is over, the battle done. The victory of life is won." Certainly, we all have our sufferings to endure. But as people of faith, *we know Who wins!* So celebrate Christ's victory of life. I pray that all of you will have a very happy and holy Easter Season.

Sincerely,
Fr. Conley

A New Creation in Christ

by St. Augustine

I speak to you who have just been reborn in baptism, my little children in Christ, you who are the new offspring of the Church, gift of the Father, proof of Mother Church's fruitfulness. All of you who stand just in the Lord are a holy seed, a new colony of bees, the very flower of our ministry and fruit of our toil, my joy and my crown. It is the words of the Apostle that I address to you: *Put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no*

provision for the flesh and its desires, so that you may be clothed with the life of him whom you have put on in this sacrament. You have all been clothed with Christ by your baptism in him. There is neither Jew nor Greek; there is neither slave nor freeman; there is neither male nor female; you are all one in Christ Jesus.

Such is the power of this sacrament: it a sacrament of new life which begins here and now with the forgiveness of all past sins, and will be brought to completion in the resurrection of the dead. *You have been buried with Christ by baptism into death in order that, as Christ has risen from the dead, you also may walk in newness of life.*

You are walking now by faith, still on pilgrimage in a mortal body away from the Lord; but he to whom your steps are directed is himself the sure and certain way for you: Jesus Christ, who for our sake became man. For all who fear him he has stored up abundant happiness, which he will reveal to those who hope in him, bringing it to completion when we have attained the reality which even now we possess in hope.

Today is fulfilled in you the sign of faith that was prefigured in the Old Testament by the circumcision of the flesh on the eighth day after birth. When the Lord rose from the dead, he put off the mortality of the flesh; his risen body was still the same body, but it was no longer subject to death. By his resurrection he consecrated Sunday, or the Lords' day. Though the third after his passion, this day is the eighth after the Sabbath, and thus also the first day of the week.

And so your own hope of resurrection, though not yet realized, is sure and certain, because you have received the sacrament or sign of this reality, and have been given the pledge of the Spirit. *If, then, you have risen with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. Set your hearts on heavenly things, not the things that are on earth. For you have died and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ, your life, appears, then you too will appear with him in glory.*

OUR THANKS TO ALL

Sacristans, Musicians, Choir members, Servers, EMHCs, Lectors, Ushers, Greeters, Altar Society, Liturgy Committee and other volunteers, who gave of their time and energy to contribute to the beauty and solemnity of our Holy Week liturgies.

WELCOME & WELCOME BACK!

We welcome all of our visitors. If you have questions about the Catholic Faith or if you've been away from the Church and feel drawn to come back please contact our pastor, Fr. Conley, at 301-870-2220 ext 13 or at frconley@comcast.net

HAVE YOU BEEN ASKED TO BE A GODPARENT OR SPONSOR?

To prepare those of you who are asked to be godparents or sponsors we have a two-class course called **“Preparing for the Sacraments for Parents and Sponsors.”** The course is for parents having a child baptized at St. Mary’s as well as for our parishioners who have been asked to be godparents or sponsors. It will provide a good overview of our Catholic faith. This free course will be offered from 7 to 8:30pm on Wednesday evenings. The sessions next month are on April 6 & 20th. To register contact Fr. Conley.

FRIDAY IS ALSO FIRST FRIDAY AND WE WILL HAVE ALL DAY EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT. Adoration will begin following the 9:30 Mass and continue until 7pm. Our school children will be coming to adoration by classes throughout the day. Volunteers are needed to sign up for adoration times from 10 to 11 and from 3 to 7. The sign-up sheet is in the foyer. Come and pray in the presence of the Lord in honor of the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

THANK YOU EVERYONE FROM THE SOCIAL CONCERNS COMMITTEE – Thank you to all our parishioners who participated in the Easter Adopt-A-Family Program. Your generosity was greatly appreciated by us and by our seventy-one adopted families. A special thank you to those who donated extra grocery shopping cards or monetary donation, just to support the mission of the Social Concerns Committee. Thanks for caring and thanks for sharing your blessings with those who are less fortunate. May God continue to bless you.

2018 ANNUAL JUBILARIAN MASS

The annual Jubilarian Celebration of marriage honoring couples married 25, 30, 35, 40, 45, 50 and 51+ years will be held Sunday, June 17, 2018 at 2:00pm at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception. Cardinal Wuerl will preside at the Mass. Please use the forms in the back of Church to register and then return the form to the rectory. Names of jubilarians need to be turned in to Mary at the rectory by Monday, April 16.

RELIGIOUS GOODS STORE NEEDS HELP

We need some help to work after the 4 & 12 PM Mass. Please call Ellen Walls at 301- 579-2557 or Fay Adriani at 301-645-3531.

THERE WILL BE NO MORNING MASS ON MONDAY, APRIL 2ND.

DIVINE MERCY PRESENTATION: APRIL 5TH FROM 7PM TO 8:30PM AT THE SCHOOL HALL WITH DINNER STARTING AT 6:30.

Come and learn about the Divine Mercy message as stated by Jesus to Sister Saint Faustina who was asked to spread this message about His love and forgiveness around the world. Jesus stated that He was giving us His Divine Mercy as the last hope for our salvation, for the awful day of His just judgement was near. Jesus explains how mercy can be obtained through saying the Divine Mercy Chaplet and Novena, receiving Him in the Eucharist, and by visiting Him in confession. Come and hear what Jesus said about these sacraments and prayers and other life lessons as written by Sister Saint Faustina, His secretary of the Divine Mercy, in her Diary.

PILGRIMAGE TO MOTHER SETON SHRINE IN EMMITSBURG, SATURDAY, APRIL 28. We will leave at 8am and be back by 7pm. Fr. Conley will be leading this pilgrimage to the Shrine of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton where we will offer Mass, have a tour, and eat lunch. While in Emmitsburg we will also visit the Lourdes Grotto. On the way back from Emmitsburg we will stop at the Springfield Manor Winery in Thurmont for a wine and cheese tasting. **DEADLINE IS APRIL 13TH.** The cost of the trip is just \$35 per person and includes lunch and the winery visit. For more information and to register contact Lauren Balderson at 301-870-2220 ext 11 or sembassist@comcast.net. Payment is due at registration. **Checks should be made out to St. Mary’s Church. You may put an envelope marked Pilgrimage and put in offertory basket.**

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THIS WEEK:

SUN: 8am Parishioners, 10am Herbert, Joan, & Mark Conley, **12N:** Mary Helen Tippett, **MON:** 8am **NO MASS**, **TUES:** 8am Carol Ann Chagnon, **WED:** 8am John F. Coates, **THURS:** 8am Lucille Tolson, **FRI:** 9:30am Mary Helen Tippett, **SAT:** 9am Benjamin M. Edelen, 4pm Ella Neal.

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR DAILY PRAYERS: Mary Bowes, Frances Card, Joe Cross, Chuck Davis, Kendall Farrell, George Fassel, Arlene Gandolfi, Martha Gehring, Judy Istvan-Windsor, Irma Johnson, Regina Kijesky, Marie Knobel, Lillian Komar, Susie Logan, Maurice Long, Jim Middleton, Mary Emma Middleton, Larry Miller, Joseph Mona, Wayne Mullings, Ryan Myers, Joseph Quade, Sylvene Savoy, William Leon Savoy, Edna Sweeney, Beth Weise, Tim Welch, Brice Zimmer.

OFFERTORY COLLECTION LAST WEEKEND, \$10,223.00. The unidentified donations totaled \$745.50. We received \$22.00 for our School Support.