

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

Dear Parishioners,

Today the Church celebrates the great Feast of Pentecost when the Holy Spirit was poured out on the disciples of Jesus. The Holy Spirit was given to the Church so that we, the followers of Christ, would take His message into the world and bring others to believe that Jesus is Lord. We have all received this gift through our baptism and confirmation. And just as the Holy Spirit transformed the Apostles into fearless witnesses of Jesus Christ, so the Spirit can and wants to do the same in us. But is it happening? Are we, as a church, and as individual Catholics, using the gift of the Holy Spirit that God has given? Are we doing our best? Are we living up to our potential? I'm convinced that if we really were, our society, as well as our marriages, families and parishes would be in much better shape.

The first step in giving witness to our faith in Christ is to pray. We need to sincerely ask the Holy Spirit each day to guide our lives in His service. Then we need to take the time and effort to be knowledgeable about His teaching by reading the Bible and studying the teachings of the Church; *there is no excuse for ignorance of the Faith*. Jesus also expects us to share our faith with our family and family and encourage them to believe. We should also pray for those who struggle to believe and invite others to come to church with us.

At the end of our lives in this world, when we meet the Lord face to face, He is not going to ask us about how we did in school, what job we held; the kind of house we lived in; the clothes we wore; the vacations we took. No. Jesus will want to know whether we have used the gift of the Holy Spirit to carry His Gospel into the world. He will want to know whether we have proclaimed His name to others by our words and our deeds.

There are many terrific things happening in this parish which are definitely signs that the Holy Spirit is at work here. Many people are making a great effort to make this a solid Catholic community that not only takes care of its own, but also reaches out to others in the name of Jesus Christ. However, we could accomplish so much more if every member of the parish would truly open their hearts up to receive the full power of the Spirit.

As we celebrate the Feast of Pentecost let us pray for the grace to let the Holy Spirit set us on fire with love for Jesus Christ, the same love that burned in the hearts of the Apostles. Let us also ask the Lord to help us to keep the promises of our baptism and confirmation to proclaim the name of Jesus to others.

With my prayers,
Fr. Conley

MANY THANKS to our volunteer CATECHISTS who gave of their time and energy since September to teach the Faith to our children. Peyton Boelke, Jazzmyn Pilkerton, Ellen Bowles, Melissa Fort, Robyn Paradis, Wendy Douglas, Victoria Hayden, Nicole Watts, Sarah Litten, Chuck Rozanski, Audra Thompson, Frank Sablan, Rick Panza, Bruce Koontz, Alyson Smallhorn and Danielle Wolfe-Borchert. Mass care - Ray and Lisa Shumaker, Lauren Balderson and Julia Tutz. *The parish owes you our gratitude!*

Continuing This Week THE WILD GOOSE: Discovering a Deeper Relationship with the Holy Spirit. Twice a month on Thursday evenings from 6:30-8:45 in the hall. Dinner included. Cost is \$10. Join fellow parishioners for learning, discussion, prayer & praise about the Holy Spirit! Sessions began on 5/10 and will continue on 5/24, 6/14, 6/28, 7/12, 7/26, 8/9, 8/23. It doesn't matter if you can't attend every session. Each night will have its own graces. You can sign up in the foyer or by contacting Fr. Conley at 301-870-2220 ext 13 or frconley@comcast.net

NOT RECEIVING COMMUNION? If for some reason you are attending Mass but not receiving Holy Communion I would like to talk to you about it. Perhaps there is a solution to your dilemma that will enable you to receive our Lord in the Holy Eucharist. Please give me a call or email me at frconley@comcast.net

“WELL-WISHERS-”We have been informed that we should replace the well system for the parish before it breaks. The current system is over fifty-years old. We would like to take care of this issue over the summer. In order to do so we will need to raise \$50,000 as a special fundraiser. This effort has been endorsed by both the Parish Pastoral and Finance Councils. The details of this effort will be shared with you as soon as possible.

LITTLE BETHLEHEM CHRISTIANS is a group that represents 200 Christian families who live in Bethlehem the holy land, and make their living as wood carvers. After all the Masses on Saturday, May 26th and Sunday, May 27th, the group represented by Alshouri family will display a collection of hand-carved olive wood religious items, as they are also for sale. The profit goes to support the Christians in the land of Christ. Please look at their religious items. Please visit our website, www.little-bethlehem.org

MOTHER SETON PRAYER BOOKLETS

They are available for free from our religious goods store. Take one home and be inspired!

BABY BOTTLE FUNDRAISER - Please support the ministry of The Catherine Foundation today by taking home a baby bottle to fill with coins, bills, or a check made payable to the organization. Baby bottles should be returned on or before Sunday, June 17, Father's Day. Your generosity enables The Catherine Foundation to provide free medical, educational, and material support for men and women dealing with an unexpected pregnancy. Please contact Janet Beck at: outreach@catherinefoundation.org).

“I WAS ILL AND YOU CARED FOR ME...”

Our Lord Jesus teaches us that loving Him means loving the least of his brothers and sisters. And some of His least brothers and sisters are the elderly in nursing homes. **VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED TO ASSIST WITH OUR SPIRITUAL OUTREACH TO THE SAGEPOINT and GENESIS** nursing homes. Local parishes offer Mass and Communion services at these homes on Wednesdays at 11 AM. Volunteers are needed to assist with bringing residents from their rooms to the services. Volunteers who are Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion are also needed. If you can assist with this ministry whether it's once a month or every week, please contact Father Conley.

NIGHT AT THE RACES FUNDRAISER: Please join new/old/current friends on Saturday, June 2, 2018, at 5:30 pm, Friendship Room, Sacred Heart Catholic Church in LaPlata for a fun-filled evening of eating and horse racing. Dinner is \$20 per person (gourmet Italian Buffet); buying a horse is \$20 per horse; racing is \$2 per bet; cash bar. For more information please call Sharon Vaughan at 301-934-2983. This is a benefit for Mount Carmel Monastery of Maryland and is sponsored by the Restorers of Mount Carmel.

PADRE PIO BUS TRIP

Join St. Joseph's - Pomfret as they travel to the National Centre for Padre Pio in Pennsylvania to celebrate his birthday on Friday, May 25. The bus departs at 7am and will return at 10pm. At the National Centre, we'll begin with a recitation of the Rosary and veneration of a Padre Pio relic along with other birthday activities. We'll also be visiting A'dello Vineyard and Winery for a tour and tasting. Cost is \$75.00 and includes buffet style lunch, dinner, transportation and wine tasting. Contact the office to register at 301-539-3903 or stjoeformation@comcast.net

KNOW OF PARISHIONERS WHO ARE HOMEBOUND? Please contact Fr. Conley or Sister Theresa at the rectory so we can minister to their spiritual needs.

LOVE FOR THE UNBORN AND OUR ETERNAL REWARD

In Luke Chapter 14:12-14, Jesus tells us that the good we do for those who cannot repay us in this world is the most beneficial, because He assures us that we will "be repaid in the resurrection of the just."

Congressman Henry Hyde, one of the greatest pro-life advocates ever to serve in Congress, expressed this idea when he said: "When the time comes, as it surely will, when we face the awesome moment, the final judgment those in the pro-life movement will not be alone. I think there'll be a chorus of voices that have never been heard in this world, but are heard beautifully and clearly in the next world ...and they will plead for everyone who has been in this movement. They will say to God, "Spare him, because he loved us."

The unborn are even less able to repay us than the beggars and the crippled and the lame and the blind (to whom Jesus referred). At least, these poor people know that we love them and are able to say "Thank you."

The child in the mother's womb not only has no voice whatsoever, but cannot even tell you "Thank you," indeed, love and action for the unborn is the most selfless form of love. In this world, nothing comes from them in return.

*Please support our advertising sponsors. This week we recognize
Rudolf A. Carrico, Jr.
Attorney at Law*

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THIS WEEK:

SUN: 8am Benjamin M. Edelen, 10am Parishioners,
12N: Mary T. Edelen, **MON:** 8am Msgr. James Beattie,
TUES: 8am Joseph L. Jones, **WED:** 8am Mary Theresa Bowen, **THURS:** 8am Anna Stonestreet, **FRI:** 9:30am Larry Wood, **SAT:** 9am Mary Theresa Bowen, 4pm Joseph L. Jones.

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR DAILY

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

OFFERTORY COLLECTION LAST WEEKEND: \$4,500.52. The unidentified donations totaled \$497.52. We received \$152.00 for our School Support.