

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

Dear Parishioners,

Two Sundays ago our Gospel reading related to us the story of the Annunciation to Mary by the angel Gabriel that she would give birth to Jesus Christ, the Son of God. In my homily for that day I noted that there are at least seven lessons based on the verses of this Gospel passage, Luke 1:26-38, that we can apply to our own lives. I think it would be very helpful to write down these verses on our calendars on each of the days of the week and pray about them on that particular day. I have no doubt that if we apply these Scripture verses to our lives they will bear much fruit just as they did for the Blessed Virgin Mary.

With my prayers,
Fr. Conley

From the Gospel according to St. Luke 1:26-38

The Annunciation to Mary & Annunciation to us all
A paraphrased verse for each day of the week:

Sunday 1. The Lord is with you.

Monday 2. Do not be afraid,

Tuesday 3. God delights in you.

Wednesday 4. The Holy Spirit will come.

Thursday 5. Nothing is impossible for God.

Friday 6. I am the servant of the Lord.

Saturday 7. Thy will be done

SONS & DAUGHTERS OF GOD

Our new Adult Faith Formation series begins *this Thursday, January 11*. This six-session series meets on the second and fourth Thursday of the month from 6:30-8:30 in the hall. We will explore what it means that Jesus Christ has made it possible for us to call God our Father. The cost is \$10 for the series and includes dinner before each session.

The first presentation is called "God Delights in You." Subsequent presentations will focus on the compassion of Jesus and the role of the Holy Spirit in our lives. Start the new year right by strengthening your spiritual health. You may sign up in the foyer or by contacting Father Conley at 301-870-2220, ext. 13 or frconley@comcast.net

CATHOLIC QUOTE

You shall know the truth and the truth shall make you odd." Flannery O'Connor

BELIEVE IT OR NOT-Lent begins in just 5 Weeks on Valentine's Day, Feb. 14. Happy Ashes!

THIS LENT, HOW ABOUT GETTING A GIFT RATHER THAN GIVING SOMETHING UP? So we are inviting you to mark your calendars now to receive **The GIFT: A Life in the Spirit Course**. Over 200 people participated in this six-session and for many of them it was a life-changing experience. In fact, it was such a great experience for so many that ten other parishes in Southern Maryland have asked us to help them present the program this year. This is an inspiring and practical series, aimed at people of all ages, to help them encounter the Holy Spirit and empower them to share their faith. The six sessions will meet on Wednesdays from 6:30-8:30pm and will include dinner. **The GIFT series begins on Wednesday, February 21st. The cost of the series is \$10. You can sign up in the foyer or by contacting Fr. Conley at 301-870-2220 ext 13 or at frconley@comcast.net.**

Some testimonies from local Catholics who have participated in the GIFT: Life in the Spirit Course.

*The Holy Spirit has led me to a deeper understanding of my Catholic faith and given me a closer relationship to God. I know now that the Holy Spirit works through me & with me every day to lead me on God's path in my life. * I feel more open to praying, exploring the Bible and attending even more classes to increase my spirituality. I am more open to deepening my relationship with God.*My daily prayers are more important and more meaningful.*My faith has grown stronger and I have a more personal relationship.*I feel closer to God every day-every hour. I feel at peace for the first time in a long time.* I am working much harder than I ever have to develop a closer, more personal relationship with God the Father and Jesus Christ.

Help for Marriages in Trouble

Is your marriage going down the right road . . . or is it a little off track? Looking for a better way? Retrouvaille can help and offers hope for a better relationship. It can help you learn the tools of healthy communication, build intimacy, and heal. For confidential information or to register for an upcoming program, please visit www.HelpOurMarriage.com, call 443-400-7017, or email 3015@retrouvaille.org.

Join the Archdiocesan Council of Catholic Women (ACCW) to pray the Rosary on the 4th of each month at 8pm. Everyone is welcome to pray as a community by calling 605-468-8016 and inserting access code: 357090#. Questions? Contact Carol Monaco, ACCW's Spirituality Chairperson, at csmonaco@verizon.net.

YOU'RE WORTH IT! DAY RETREAT FOR WOMEN

The Church of Jesus the Divine Word in Huntingtown, MD (885 Cox Rd.) is hosting award-winning Catholic author/speaker/blogger/talk-show-host/mother-of-eight, Danielle Bean, on Saturday, January 27 from 9am-3pm.

In the *You're Worth It! Day Retreat for Women*, Danielle invites women to find their worth by seeking a deeper relationship with Jesus. Tickets are \$30 per person if purchased in advance through the parish office, and \$40 at the door. The day begins with Mass and offers talks, guided meditation, private prayer/Adoration, music, breakfast, lunch, and more. For more information, contact Karen Burns at 410-414-8304 or religioused@jesusdivineword.org.

HAVE YOU BEEN ASKED TO BE A GODPARENT OR SPONSOR? If so, **congratulations!** It is a great honor because you have been asked to help someone else to grow in faith as a Catholic. To assist 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 our parishioners who need a recommendation in order to be godparents or sponsors at other parishes. It will provide a good overview of our Catholic faith. This free course is offered from 7 to 9pm on the first and third Wednesday of each month. For more information contact Fr. Conley.

IS GOD CALLING YOU TO THE DIACONATE? COME AND SEE!

The Office of Permanent Diaconate Formation of the Archdiocese of Washington will begin a new cycle of recruitment and preparation of men for the diaconate. The initial selection process for the next aspirancy class will be preceded with six opportunities to "Come and See" about the permanent diaconate. These events will be held at various locations around the Archdiocese in January-March 2018. To learn more about the specific dates and locations, please contact Diane Biggs in the Office of the Permanent Diaconate at 301-853-5345 or biggsd@adw.org. The mailing address is: Office of Permanent Diaconate Formation, P.O. Box 29260, Washington, D.C. 20017. Additional information is available at adw.org/permanent-deacons.

THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

The Social Concerns Committee would like to thank EVERYONE who adopted a family or donated toys for Christmas. Our overwhelming generosity was greatly appreciated by all the families.

MEN'S DISCERNMENT RETREAT

Friday, February 2 through Sunday, February 4: Men in their 20s, 30s, or 40s who are considering a call to the priesthood are invited to attend a discernment retreat at Saint John Paul II Seminary led by priests of the Archdiocese of Washington. The weekend will offer time away from your daily routine and will provide an opportunity for prayer and reflection to examine God's call. There is no fee to attend. Registration is now open

at www.dcpriest.org. Email vocations@adw.org with any questions.

YOU DON'T DESERVE TO BE ABUSED

Domestic violence refers to a pattern of violent and coercive behavior by one adult over another in an intimate relationship. It can consist of repeated severe beatings or subtle forms of abuse, including threats and control. If you experience any form of abuse, please know that there is help. Call the National Domestic Violence Hotline at 1-800-799-7233. To learn more about domestic violence, please visit www.catholiccharitiesdc.org/familypeace.

WANTED!!! SPONSORS WHO WOULD LIKE TO ADVERTISE ON BACK OF OUR CHURCH BULLETIN. If anyone is interested in advertising for the upcoming year that will start on March 1st, please call Mary at the rectory at 301-870-2220.

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THIS WEEK:

SUN: 8am Carola Estevez, 10am Andrew Femiano, 12N: Parishioners, **MON:** 8:00am Joseph L. Chapman, **TUES:** 8am Joyce Wood, **WED:** 8am Mark Conley, **THURS:** 8am Joan Conley, **FRI:** 9:30am Betty Ann Watson, **SAT:** 9am Herbert Conley, 4pm A. Daniel Venezia.

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR DAILY PRAYERS:

Mary Bowes, Gladys Brown, Frances Card, Joe Cross, Kendall Farrell, George Fassel, Arlene Gandolfi, Martha Gehring, Judy Istvan-Windsor, Irma Johnson, Regina Kijesky, Marie Knobel, Lillian Komar, Susie Logan, Maurice Long, Liz Marcus, Mary Emma Middleton, Larry Miller, Joseph Mona, Wayne Mullings, Lenora Proctor, Joseph Quade, Sylvene Savoy, William Leon Savoy, Edna Sweeney, Lisa Thompson, Beth Weise, Tim Welch, Brice Zimmer.

OFFERTORY COLLECTION LAST WEEKEND, \$7913.45. The unidentified donations totaled \$491.95.

We received \$25.00 for our School Support.

The Christmas Collection was \$36,121.65.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT OF OUR PARISH!