

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

Fr. Conley

Dear Parishioners,

I have good news and bad news. I will let you decide which is which.

After this weekend you will not be seeing me at Sunday Masses until the weekend of February 25. Visiting priests will be covering the Masses and Confessions. I will be here on those days and throughout the week I just won't be offering the Sunday Masses.

The reason you will not be seeing me is that I will be out on a mission. The mission is to preach about the Life in the Spirit Seminar in three of our local parishes.

On the weekend of February 4, I will be at St. Aloysius church in Leonardtown. Father David Beaubien, the pastor there will be covering the Masses here. Father David served in Bryantown for a few months before he was ordained to the priesthood. On the weekend of February 11, I will be preaching about the Spirit Seminar at Holy Ghost parish in Issue. While I am down there, Father Bob Golas will be offering the Masses here for you. Then on the weekend of February 18, I will be at St. Joseph's Parish in Pomfret, preaching about the Spirit Seminar. While I am there, a retired priest, Msgr. John Brady, will be offering the Masses here.

The reason that I am doing this is because the Holy Spirit has given me a mission to promote awareness of Him and the many blessings He brings to those who open their hearts to His work. As you know, we had the Life in the Spirit Seminar here last Lent and over 200 people participated in the six week series. It was a life-changing experience for many of them. So much so that we continue to get well over 100 adults coming to our Thursday night Walking in the Spirit gatherings. Other pastors and parishes have heard what took place here at Bryantown and they would like us to share our experience with them. To that end, not only am I visiting other parishes to promote the Spirit Seminar, but six teams of St. Mary's Bryantown parishioners are going to other parishes to present the Seminar during the course of Lent. The fact that your fellow parishioners are committing themselves to approximately 30 hours of work in other parishes on six weeknight evenings is itself a testimony to the power of the experience of renewal in the Holy Spirit.

We will be offering the Spirit Seminar again here in our parish this Lent. It will be offered on Thursday evenings from 6:30 to 8:30 PM and on Sunday mornings from 11:15 AM until 1 PM. I hope that those of you who were unable to participate in the Spirit Seminar last year will be able to do so this Lent. As those who experienced it last year will tell you, it will be a blessing for you, your family and our community as the Spirit helps you to grow in your love for our Lord Jesus Christ.

I ask you to please pray for me and your fellow parishioners as we take the good news of new life in the Spirit to other parishes over the coming weeks.

With my prayers,

Receive The GIFT: A Life in the Spirit Course. Over 200 people participated in this six-session last lent 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 THURSDAYS FROM 6:30-8:30PM** and will include dinner.

There will also be a **Sunday morning session** which meets from 11:15-1pm which will include lunch. **The GIFT series begins on THURSDAY, February 22nd. 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.**

PRAYER GROUP MEETING THIS THURSDAY, FEB 1st FROM 6:30-8:30 PM in the hall. Dinner is included. All are welcome as we celebrate the gifts of the Holy Spirit. For more information contact Father Conley.

THIS FRIDAY IS THE FIRST FRIDAY OF THE MONTH AND WE WILL HAVE ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT following the 9:30 AM Mass. Volunteers are needed to sign up for adoration hours, especially between the hours of 3 and 7pm. The sign-up form is in the foyer.

YOU ARE INVITED TO JOIN CARDINAL WUERL in honoring the memory of enslaved men and women who, during the period when slavery was legal, was buried in unmarked graves throughout what is now the Archdiocese of Washington. This special Mass will be celebrated on Saturday, February 3, 2018 at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception at 5:15pm.

PLEASE REMOVE FROM THE CEMETERY BY MONDAY, FEBRUARY 12, ANY CHRISTMAS ITEMS YOU WANT TO KEEP.

INDIVIDUAL UNBOUND MINISTRY PRAYER

Do you long for freedom but feel unable to receive it? Do past sins, hurts, or memories weigh you down? On **Saturday February 3rd, 2018** there will be trained teams available to provide individual prayer using the Unbound Model of prayer at **The Church of the Resurrection's school** in Ellicott City. Unbound Prayer is based on 5 scriptural keys that help you unlock those areas of your life where you want to receive

greater freedom & spiritual growth. If you would like to schedule an appointment or want more information, please contact Dan Gahagan by **January 29th** at unboundministrymaryland@gmail.com. We ask that you read at least the first 7 chapters of the book *Unbound*, by Neal Lozano prior to receiving prayer (available at www.Amazon.com OR www.heartofthefather.com.)

“ST. MARY CHURCH, NEWPORT will have a monthly healing Mass in honor of St. John Vianney beginning on Thursday, February 1st, 2018. Mass will be held on the first Thursday of each month thereafter. The Litany of St. John Vianney will be recited after Communion and Fr. Michael Briese will offer prayers of healing for body and soul. The Sacrament of Reconciliation will be available before and during Mass. Confessions begin at 6:00 p.m.; Mass begins at 6:30 p.m. Our Shrine is located at St. Mary Church Newport, 11555 St. Mary's Church Road, Charlotte Hall, MD 20622. Please contact the rectory office for additional information at 301-934-8825.”

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.

“Vocations Tree” Coming Soon!

What’s a “Vocations Tree”? Shortly before Ash Wednesday, you’ll find a “tree” in the church foyer covered with cards that each feature a seminarian of the Archdiocese of Washington. We invite you to choose a card (or more than one!) and commit to praying a short prayer for that seminarian each day during Lent as part of your Lenten activities.

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.

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.

KNOW OF PARISHIONERS WHO ARE

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

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THIS WEEK:

SUN: 8am Joyce Wood, 10am Parishioners, 12N: Darlene Jenifer, **MON:** 8:00am Anna Stonestreet, **TUES:** 8am Mary June Zamrok, **WED:** 8am Rev. William Thompson, **THURS:** 8am Rev. Donald Worch, **FRI:** 9:30am Taylor Halbleib, **SAT:** 9am Joyce Wood, 4pm Paul Istvan.

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR DAILY

PRAYERS: Mary Bowes, 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, Jim Middleton, Mary Emma Middleton, Larry Miller, Joseph Mona, Wayne Mullings, Brian Myers, Lenora Proctor, Joseph Quade, Sylvene Savoy, William Leon Savoy, Ben Stark, Edna Sweeney, Lisa Thompson, Beth Weise, Tim Welch, Brice Zimmer.

OFFERTORY COLLECTION LAST WEEKEND, \$8,845.30. The unidentified donations totaled \$577.30. We received \$96.00 for our School Support.