

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

Dear Parishioners,

Once again we are offering the Life in the Spirit Seminar as a spiritual exercise for Lent. Last year at this time both Deacon Dan (whom we all still miss) and myself spoke to you about the impact that the Holy Spirit has had in our lives. We shared our witness with you to encourage you to participate in the Spirit Seminar. And you responded wonderfully!

Two hundred of you participated in the Spirit Seminar last year and most of you who did are still participating in our Walking in the Spirit gatherings on Thursday nights. What the Holy Spirit did here and continues to do has been a real blessing for many individuals and our parish as a community. If you did not have a chance to participate in the Spirit Seminar last Lent, I encourage you to do so this year. It was truly a life-changing experience for many of the participants.

At the conclusion of the Spirit Seminar we gave everyone who was prayed for to receive baptism/renewal in the Holy Spirit, a Holy Spirit cross pin. If you did not participate in the Spirit Seminar ask someone who's wearing one of the pins what they think about their experience and I am sure they will tell you it was well worth every minute. So this year instead of listening to my testimony about the work of the Spirit in my life, I have asked those who participated in the Seminar to share their witness with you. You will be hearing from some of them at the Masses next weekend. And you can read some of their testimonies below. Please, please, please – if you have not participated in the Life in the Spirit Seminar, try it this year. You will not regret it and if you participate with an open mind and heart, you will be most richly blessed by the Holy Spirit. *Also, last year's offer still stands. If you participate in the Spirit Seminar, you don't have to give up anything for Lent!*

Come Holy Spirit!
Fr. Conley

TESTIMONIES OF SMB PARTICIPANTS IN THE LIFE IN THE SPIRIT SEMINAR

- The Holy Spirit has led me to a deeper understanding of my catholic faith and has 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 have absolutely felt the Holy Spirit work in my life. Putting people in my path letting me know

about opportunities, whispering messages of what I should /should not be saying or about my actions as well as adding so many wonderful things to my daily prayer life.

- To learn to know the HOLY BLESSED TRINITY is a very powerful thing. This is ongoing for me. I am STILL learning.
- 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 faith has grown stronger and I have a more personal relationship.
- Every day-every hour. I feel at peace for the first time in a long time. I now go to confession.
- It has helped me to grow spiritually.
- I am working much harder than I ever have to develop a closer more personal relationship with God and Jesus.
- Open to a more loving relationship and confidence in my spiritual life. To show love, mercy & patience toward others.
- I feel my relationships, especially with my husband, have been better.
- I want to share the joy and love of the Holy Spirit.

COME THIS LENT & EXPERIENCE 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. 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 starting February 22** and will include dinner.

There will also be a **Sunday morning session** which meets from 11:15-1pm beginning February 25. It will include lunch. **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.**

THE HUMILITY OF JESUS is the subject of this week's session of SONS & DAUGHTERS OF GOD

This series meets on the second and fourth Thursday of the month from 6:30-8:30 in the hall and includes dinner before each session. If you can't come to each session come to the ones that you can. You may sign up to come by contacting Father Conley at 301-870-2220, ext. 13 or frconley@comcast.net

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.

PARISH SHROVE TUESDAY "PANCAKE"

SUPPER is going to be held on Tuesday, February 13th from 5-7 pm in the parish hall. The menu includes: pancakes, bacon, sausage, home fries, orange juice, coffee and tea. Cost is \$ 7 per adult, \$5 children ages 6-12, and children under 6 eat free.

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

PLEASE REMOVE FROM THE CEMETERY BY MONDAY, FEBRUARY 12, ANY CHRISTMAS ITEMS YOU WANT TO KEEP. CONTRIBUTION STATEMENTS FOR 2017 HAVE BEEN PRINTED & MAILED OUT.

RETROUVAILLE MARRIAGE PROGRAM

4 Stages of Marriage – The 4 stages of marriage are: (1) Romance, (2) Disillusionment, (3) Misery, and (4)

Awakening. Many marriages experience the first 3 Stages. Marriages that end in divorce never make it to the 4th Stages of Awakening. Don’t give up without learning about the 4th Stage of Awakening. If your marriage suffers from Disillusionment or Misery, please contact Retrouvaille. All calls are confidential.

To register or obtain more information visit our website at: www.HelpOurMarriage.com or call 443-400-7017.

2ND ANNUAL HOLY FAMILY CELEBRATION

Join fellow Catholic couples and families for the 2nd Annual Holy Family Celebration on Saturday, February 17 from 1:30-6:30pm at the Saint John Paul II National Shrine in Washington, DC (3900 Harewood Rd., NE). This half-day celebration will feature an inspiring talk for couples by nationally-recognized writer and speaker Msgr. Charles Pope, Mass and Consecration to the Holy Family, and fun catechesis for children and teens. The day will conclude with a family-style meal and entertainment. The cost of attendance is \$15 per couple and \$30 for a family of three or more, which includes a meal after Mass. To register, please visit www.holyfamilycelebration.eventbrite.com. This event is sponsored by the Archdiocese of Washington, the DC State Council of the Knights of Columbus, and the Saint John Paul II National Shrine.

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THIS WEEK:

SUN: 8am Darlene Jenifer, 10am Parishioners, 12N: Taylor Halbleib, **MON:** 8:00am Darlene Jenifer, **TUES:** 8am Mary A. Bell, **WED:** 8am Joseph L. Chapman, **THURS:** 8am Joyce Wood, **FRI:** 9:30am John F. Coates, **SAT:** 9am Mary T. Edelen, 4pm Sally O’Neill.

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, 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, \$8,221.00. The unidentified donations totaled \$439.00. We received \$30.00 for our School Support.