

Clergy Corner

We enter Lent this Wednesday, and we may think of Lent as a time when we “give up” something, like a favorite food, as a form of penance. However, I invite you to think differently-- add something to your life this Lent. Of course, I mean some form of prayer. It might be the Rosary or the Divine Mercy devotion, the Stations of the Cross, or spending time daily with a retreat book that gives us some spiritual direction. It might be the practice of lectio divina (“divine reading”) which is a way of reading, meditating on, praying with, and contemplating Scripture. This ancient monastic prayer practice has seen a revival in recent times, and it is a way of encountering God, listening to Him, and being transformed through reading the sacred texts. Another meditation well suited to Lent is the meditation on the Seven Last “Words” (sayings) of Christ. These seven last sayings, made from the Cross, literally with Jesus’ dying breaths, are his last will and testament to us.

Whatever new practice we take up for Lent, it should be centered on the Cross, and invite us into silence, where we can hear God whispering to us. But there are things to give up for Lent --the constant noise and distraction of our culture, the always present television, computer, and phone that seem to dictate to us instead of serving us--we need to master them by ignoring them for part of our day. Then we can be truly present to others, including the Lord. Recall the scene in the Garden of Gethsemane, where Jesus asked the apostles to keep watch with him. Like the apostles then, Jesus asks us: “Could you not keep watch one hour?” Since we, like the apostles, find this difficult, we need help through devotions and spiritual reading. If you want to imagine yourself in ancient Jerusalem as the drama of the Passion unfolds, there is a classic devotional work, What Jesus saw from the Cross, which brings the scenes to life. “By means of this book,” said Mother Teresa of Calcutta, “we enter right into the Heart of Jesus and discover how precious we are to Him and how much He longs for our love in return.”

The Gospel this week concerns a man paralyzed--not just physically, but by his sins. Jesus heals both his spirit and his body. Lent is a time to “wake up” spiritually, to see where we stand with the Lord, and to draw closer to Him. So we begin with a day of fast and abstinence this Ash Wednesday, and I hope you will take advantage of the Lenten devotions and penance services to walk more closely with the Lord. We don’t need to remain “paralyzed” by our sins, since the mercy of God is so readily available to us. So instead of “giving up” this Lent, let us add to the Lord’s joy and our own, and press on for the prize of glory that awaits us!

Deacon Kevin Brown

The parish offices will be closed February 20, 2012 in observance of President’s Day. Regular office business will begin again on Tuesday, February 21st from 9am - 4pm.

Mass Intentions

Saturday, February 18	5:30pm	Parishioners
Sunday, February 19	9:00am	Louis Haigis
	11:30am	George Newcomb
Saturday, February 25	5:30pm	Renee’ D. Hassell
Sunday, February 26	9:00am	Parishioners
	11:30am	Catherine Cieri

Feast Days of the Week

Tuesday -Saint Peter Damien, Bishop and Doctor of the Church

Wednesday - Ash Wednesday

Thursday - Saint Polycarp, Bishop and Martyr

Cluster Ash Wednesday Schedule

Crucifixion	7:00pm	
St. Philip Neri	7:00pm	
<u>Good Shepherd 7:30pm</u>		
St. Bernadette	7:30pm	
Holy Trinity	6:30am	
	8:30am	
	12noon (Hall)	Ecumenical Word Service
	5:00pm	Spanish
	7:00pm	Spanish
Slade Auditorium		
	5:30pm	Word Service
	7:00pm	Word Service

Our Ladies Sodality would be honored to pray for your intentions. Please call 410-761-5380 and leave a message. You will be remembered in our daily prayers.



All that’s necessary for evil to win is for good people to do nothing.

Cluster Service Project

The Cluster Advisory Council is planning a Cluster-wide Service Project for Saturday, April 21, 2012. We are in need of at least one person from each parish to participate in a planning committee (1-2 meetings) to assist with organizing sign-ups, advertisements, and other small tasks. If you would like to be involved or would like more information, please contact Christine Nelson (ordinateur1@verizon.net) by Monday, February 27, 2012.

Monsignor Slade Catholic School will hold a **Family Bingo** featuring Longaberger baskets and Vera Bradley bags on **February 26, 2012, at 2:00pm**. All baskets and bags are filled with "kid theme" items. Tickets are \$12 in advance and \$15 at the door. All players, including children, must purchase a ticket. For information/tickets, call Mary at 410-768-0593.

On **March 4, 2012** at 12:30pm at the **Cathedral of Mary Our Queen**, a Mass of Thanksgiving will occur to **celebrate Cardinal-designate O'Brien's elevation to the College of Cardinals** and to thank God for the service of the Fifteenth Archbishop of Baltimore. A reception for all who attend the Mass will occur on the grounds of the Cathedral immediately following the conclusion of the Mass. All are welcome and no tickets are necessary.

Friday Night Suppers

Beginning Friday, Feb. 24th, and every Friday during Lent, the Senior Ministry of the Church of the Crucifixion will host a delicious fish dinner, from 5:30pm - 7:00pm followed by the Stations of the Cross. The cost is \$8.00 per person. Supper includes, soup, salad, fish, French fries, corn pudding, green beans, vegetarian lasagna, macaroni and cheese, rolls and butter, fresh fruit, coffee, tea, and iced tea. Come and enjoy food and fellowship with your church family during the Lenten Season. For more information or if you are planning to attend, please call Herb Jankowski at 410-787-0514

Father Michael J. McGivney Knights of Columbus Council #7025 will be hosting an Old Fashioned Bull and Oyster Roast on Saturday, March 17, 2012 at Monsignor Slade School from 5 - 10pm. Tickets are \$39 per person. For more information, contact Andy Werner at 443-838-9111 or at awerner06@verizon.net.

Youth Faith Formation Spring Session

The first Spring session for all students registered for Faith Formation (Grades 6-12) is Sunday, February 27, from 7-8:25pm. If you have not registered your child for Faith Formation and would like to do so, please call Joyce at 410-766-5070 ext. 18.

***Stand Strong in the Public Square -
Attend Catholic Lobby Night in Annapolis on
February 20, 2012***

Join Maryland's bishops and hundreds of fellow Catholics on President's Day - Monday, February 20th from 3:30 - 8:00pm - for the 28th annual Catholic Lobby Night in Annapolis and make your voice heard. Tell legislators that we all have a duty to serve the poor and vulnerable, build up the common good and respect human life and dignity. Lobby Night is an advocacy event that gives catholic voters the opportunity to speak in person with their elected officials about issues including abortion, health care, poverty, immigration, catholic schools, the death penalty, and marriage.

Registration is required. Visit www.mdccathcon.org or call the Maryland Catholic Conference at 410-269-1155/301-261-1979 to register or for more information.

Blessed John Paul II Academy Registration

Blessed John Paul II Academy, a Catholic homeschooling co-op of integral formation, has limited openings for the 2012-2013 school year. This school, located in Severna Park, serves families with children from Pre-K - 8th grade, however, participating families must have a child 3rd-grade age or older. The co-op meets one day per week, currently Thursdays, and fulfills the academic requirements in Literature, Writing, Science, History, and Fine Arts. The Directive Board is hosting a Parents' Information Night for prospective families on Tuesday, February 28th, from 7-8:30pm, at Our Shepherd Lutheran Church, 400 Benfield Road, in Severna Park. Please call or e-mail Christine Sybert, 410-255-9540 or jp2academy@gmail.com, for more information. RSVP required by Sunday, Feb. 26th.

Thought for the Week

True holiness does not mean a flight from the world; rather, it lies in the effort to incarnate the gospel in everyday life, in the family, at school and at work, and in social and political involvement.

-Blessed Pope John Paul II

Give Satan an inch and he'll become a ruler.