

## Clergy Corner

I begin today's reflection by paraphrasing the words of St. Catherine of Siena: From God who is Wisdom, we have received wisdom; from God who is Truth, we have received truth; and from God who is Almighty, we have received the strength of faith. Following St. Catherine, I dare to say that from the Lord who teaches with authority, we have received the gospel that has the power to set us free and to save us, our families, our nation and the world. As St. Mark says, "The people were astonished at [Jesus'] teaching, for he taught as one having authority and not as the scribes" (1:22). The scribes taught by repeating and interpreting the words of the prophets; their authority to teach came from others. Jesus' teaching emanated from himself; he is the point of reference for what he teaches. His words have the power to heal and to transform people from inside out. This is the authority the people encountered and were astonished. This is also the authority the evil spirit encountered and cried out, "What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us?" Jesus faced him and said with authority, "Be quiet and come out of him" (Mk 1:23-25).

Yes, dearly beloved, we have received a teaching that has the power to destroy the evil in us and in our society: the evil that seeks to destroy the sanctity of life and the integrity of the family through laws that support abortion and same sex marriage; the evil of greed and corruption that creates unjust economic structures as well as upheaval and imbalance in the world; the evil of spiritual blindness that causes us to make personal choices that destroy the moral foundation of our society. But thanks be to God! For there is hope! There is a Voice that speaks so powerfully and so clearly as to leave no one in doubt. He is Jesus! He is the Word who silences the noise of evil ("Be quiet!" he says). And he is the Light that darkness cannot overcome (Jn 1:5).

Again, thanks be to God that Jesus gave this authority to his Church, which he founded on St. Peter, the Rock (Mt 16:18-19). From the time of the Apostles even until now, the Church has always spoken with a clear voice and with authority. And although she has always faced persecutions and sufferings of every kind, the Church believes in the words of her Savior, that "the powers of death cannot overcome it" (Mt 16:18b). The Church has also received the authority to forgive sins and to bring all people into the healing presence of God.

In union with the Church and through participation in her sacramental life, every baptized individual has also received this authority to know and bear witness to the Truth who is Christ. St. John says that we have received the power to become children of God (Jn 1:12). St. Paul also teaches that, the gospel we have received, as children of God, "did not come to [us] in word alone but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with much conviction" (1Thessalonians 1:5).

Many Catholics and Christians all over the world are speaking and living with the authority of Christ. They are without fear; they are filled with the power of the Holy Spirit, and they are convinced! Are you one of them? Peace be with you.

Fr. Tony

### Mass Intentions

Saturday, January 28	5:30pm	James A. Wilbourne
Sunday, January 29	9:00am	Parishioners
	11:30am	Our clergy
Saturday, February 4	5:30pm	Marion B. Hassell
Sunday, February 5	9:00am	Susan Strycharz
	11:30am	Parishioners

### Feast Days of the Week

Tuesday -Saint John Bosco, priest  
Thursday -The Presentation of the Lord  
Friday - Saint Blaise, Bishop and Martyr; Saint Ansgar, Bishop

### Senior Ministry

The Churches of Crucifixion, Good Shepherd, and Holy Trinity would like to invite you to be a part of our Senior 55+ Ministry. Seniors are a vital part of our Church Community. The knowledge that can be shared among Seniors and passed on to younger generations is invaluable.

As life moves faster and faster, the companionship of other Seniors is immeasurable in the nurturing of our bodies and souls. Jesus Christ places value on all human life regardless of age, religion, gender, and disposition. Our Senior Ministry meets at the Church of the Crucifixion—located at 100 Scott Ave., Glen Burnie, Md. 21060 on the 2nd Saturday of every month - all year long. There are no meeting requirements, you can come and go as you please. We are open to all faiths, so feel free to bring a friend. The day opens with a prayer, followed by a meal, fellowship, and sometimes a movie or trivia game. If you or someone you know might be interested in joining or finding out more about this ministry, please call Herb Jankowski at 410-787-0514

### Good Shepherd Cana Mass - Save the Date

Good Shepherd will honor the sacrament of Matrimony and recognize married couples during the 11:30 Mass on Sunday, Feb. 19th. A special blessing will be offered to all married couples. All are also invited to a reception after the Mass in the Church Hall.

What is unique endearing quality of your beloved? Have you told your spouse? No harm in saying it again. Do it today.  
[www.foryourmarriage.org](http://www.foryourmarriage.org)

**PRAY FOR BABY LIZZIE**, the innocent 22-month-old granddaughter of Crucifixion parishioner Mary Jo Johnson, is hospitalized after being brutally attacked on January 1. Her family remains vigilantly at her side. Please pray for Lizzie's miraculous recovery

*A message from Fr. Rich*

**¡Todos Somos Católicos!**

It's hard to believe that my time here is near an end. By the time you read this last entry, I will be back in Glen Burnie (God willing). And I will be trying to regain a mastery of the new English translation of the Mass, having celebrated it only in Spanish this past month! Always a challenge . . .

In my final weekend here, I preached that Jesus calls all of us to follow him in a new way – not necessarily to follow him anew, as though we've never followed him before, but in a *new way* – being willing to open ourselves to new challenges. In this past month, Jesus has not been asking me to start all over as a priest – as if I had no idea of how to be a priest – but to consider being a priest in a new way – open to new people, open to new traditions, open to a new language.

And thank God that's how Jesus calls us. If I had to learn everything all over again, I might not be willing to answer! But I already know how to celebrate Mass; I already know how to visit the poor; I already know how to enjoy life's blessings with others. All Jesus wants is to call me to do those things in a new way.

And thank God that our Church is universal in allowing me to do that. I must admit that, when I first arrived here, I was a bit apprehensive about the month to come: Would I be able to understand what people were saying to me? Would I be able to celebrate the sacraments and preach to people in a meaningful way? Had I bitten off more than I could chew?

But the Church's rituals and practices brought immediate consolation to me. I immediately knew what to do in the ritual, and people immediately knew what I was doing – even if my words were garbled and muddled. In this new venture of mine, I could take comfort in the shared rituals of our universal Church, and others could join me in celebrating those same rituals.

Last month, when Fr. Jesús preached at the Mass for Our Lady of Guadalupe, he asked the congregants to identify which countries they came from. The United States, Mexico, Guatemala, El Salvador, Ecuador, Venezuela, the Dominican Republic, etc. We came from many different locations to celebrate God's goodness to us in Jesus Christ through the Blessed Virgin. But despite our different places of origin, we were still all the same: "*¡Todos somos Católicos!*" he exclaimed. "We are all Catholics!"

It was a great message for the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe. It was a great message for my new venture here in Puerto Rico. And it continues to be a great message for our diverse community in Glen Burnie: *¡Todos somos Católicos!*

*Fr. Rich*

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.

**TEEN NIGHT**

The Youth Group of Crucifixion, Good Shepherd and Holy Trinity has **TEEN NIGHT every Monday night** at 7pm in the hall at the Church of the Good Shepherd. Encourage your teen to come out and meet new friends and have some good, clean fun!

**BINGO BLAST**

The Good Shepherd Bingo Blast is coming!!!

**February 12, 2012**

\$20.00 donation

Includes: Spaghetti and Meatballs Platter, Beverages,

8 Regular Cards - 4 Specials

Doors Open at 12:30pm

Play from 2:00pm to 5:00pm

Call 410-761-8291 for more information or to reserve a table

**NAMI AA County**

NAMI Anne Arundel County is the local affiliate of the National Alliance on Mental Illness. Since mental illness occurs in 1 in 7 people, we offer FREE services for individual with loved ones struggling with mental illness as well as individuals themselves struggling to live with mental illness.

For further information, visit our website at [www.namiaac.org](http://www.namiaac.org)

**Rally for Marriage**

Supporters for traditional marriage will hold a rally on Monday, January 30th at 6:00pm in Annapolis. Join those committed to upholding marriage through a respectful witness urging lawmakers not to redefine marriage. Your voice can help ensure that our laws uphold marriage and the important role of mothers and fathers in their children's lives. For more information, call 410-269-1155 or 301-261-1979; email info @ [mdcathcon.org](mailto:mdcathcon.org); visit [mdcathcon.org/marriage](http://mdcathcon.org/marriage).

**NCEON**

(North County Emergency Outreach Network)

located in Glen Burnie, is in need of food donations. A bin is provided in the vestibule of the church for any non-perishable food donations. One of our parishioners takes the donations to NCEON every Monday. Thank you for your generosity.

**Thought for the Week**

*To see the truth of Christ is to experience with deep amazement the worth and dignity of every human being, which is the good news of the gospel and the heart of Christianity.*

*-Blessed Pope John Paul II*

**When you get to your wit's end, you'll find God lives there.**