

March 11, 2018

REFLECTION OF LENTEN MISSION

We are all grateful to Father David Gunter for a wonderful four-day Lenten Parish Mission last week. It was truly a blessing for our entire parish. One of our long-time parishioners said it all: "Father, this is the best Parish Mission I have ever attended!" Everyone had the opportunity to **hear** Fr. Gunter as he preached at all weekend Masses. In his homily, and throughout his four one-hour talks, he highlighted several of the challenges faced by the Church, including a decrease in participation at Sunday Masses, the shortage of vocations to the priesthood, the closure of many parishes, the devil's continuous attacks on the family, the expanding pornography industry, drug addiction and the danger of a possible Third World War. Despite this dark vision of recent developments, he also expressed great **hope**. The Catholic Church remains strong as the only worldwide institution in existence for 2,000 years. He referred to the messages of Fatima, and the prediction of the **Triumph of Mary**. As announced in the Book of Revelation, Mary is the one who will crush the Serpent once for all. She will be victorious! She is the Mediatrix of All Grace! She is the Co-Redemptrix! She is our Advocate! She is the New Eve! She is the New Ark of the Covenant! Jesus also will never abandon us. As revealed to St. Faustina, we can always rely on Jesus: "**Jesus, I trust in You.**" Those five words can change our lives.

It is impossible to summarize the four hours of the mission talks. They were all very rich allowing us to attain additional insight on the key role Mary plays in **Salvation History**. My own take was first a reinforcement of my own trust in Mary, Our Mother in Heaven. From childhood, I developed a great love for Mary through my many pilgrimages to Lourdes (I lived only 10 miles away from the grotto of the apparition to St. Bernadette Soubirous). I always felt that Mary would always protect me. I was always impressed by the thousands and thousands of sick people who would come every day to seek miraculous cure...I loved the feeling of peace surrounding the grotto.

Second, my realization that I had never really given much thought to the meaning of the Triumph of Mary. Fr. Gunter gave me a new window on that great mystery and an increased sense of **personal hope**. If Mary is the one who will triumph over the devil and all evil, how much more can she help me resist the devil and take away the chains that are my sinfulness?

Third, I will never forget Fr. Gunter's amazing testimony in his first talk Sunday afternoon: his own victory over drug addiction and the key role Mary played in his personal conversion, including his pilgrimages to Medjugorje (Bosnia) where Mary's apparitions are still continuing.

Fourth, Fr. Gunter's insight on the need we all have for both Paternal Love (God the Father) and Maternal Love (Mary our Mother in Heaven).

Fifth, the foundational root of the fall of Adam and Eve: Adam and Eve's lack of Love; the fact that he did not stop Eve from listening to the serpent, remaining silent on the sidelines.

I invite you all to reflect on where Fr. Gunter's mission can help lead our parish. His last talk on Wednesday night highlighted the importance of the **Holy Spirit: Mary, the spouse of the Holy Spirit. They remain one**. In the same way that Mary leads us to Jesus, her Son, she also leads us to the Holy Spirit, her spouse. Now that we have deepened our understanding of Mary our Mother and Mother of Jesus, maybe the time has come to deepen our understanding of her spouse, the Holy Spirit.

By pure coincidence (or God's incidence), our current Year of Walking with Mary on the Road to Intentional Discipleship of Jesus ends on **Pentecost Sunday**, May 20, 2018. We had chosen May 20th as a natural end as this year it is our Feast Day Our Lady Help Christians (Sunday before May 24). Also as a coincidence or God's incidence, Pope Francis has just instituted a new celebration of **Mary, Mother of the Church**. Beginning this year, we will celebrate this new annual feast on the **Monday** following **Pentecost**. This is to remind us that while Pentecost celebrates the birth of the Church, we are also to celebrate the next day, Mary as the **Mother of the Church**. Mary is already the Patroness Saint of our Parish. We are in the same way **blessed twice** by Mary as she is also the Mother of the whole Church.



The above is food for thought for all of us. I will value your feedback on how we can deepen our understanding of the Holy Spirit through Mary. I have no doubt that the Holy Spirit is always present in our church. I feel His presence whenever we gather as a parish community to worship, especially at Mass, but also during daily Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, or while praying the daily Rosary together. I share with you my own Triangle of Love: Jesus, Mary and the Holy Spirit. Let us pray that the Holy Spirit will continue to guide our Lenten Journey and inspire all of us while coming to worship at Our Lady Help of Christians!

One in Christ, Fr. Alain

Mary: A Biblical Walk with the Blessed Mother here at Our Lady, Help of Christians

An extraordinary study that reveals Mary's unique role in God's Kingdom and in our lives. Bible Study (10-11:30 am): Thursdays, March 15 & 22 or Saturdays, March 17 & 24 or form a small group in a home at your convenience. For more information see <http://olhoc.com/lent-2018>

Fourth Sunday of Lent

CCD Class Schedule

Our Lady Help of Christians 2017-2018 CCD registration is open online: www.olhoc.org.

March 11-12, 18-19, 24-25: CCD Classes

Our next parent-student workshop is scheduled for March 14/ March 17 at 6:45 PM/9:30 AM.

Contact **Therese Thiedeman** at 301-645-7112 or dre@olhoc.org

FIAT: Elementary school Faith in Action Team (meets monthly)

Edge: Middle school youth ministry (meets monthly)

Life Teen: High school youth ministry

Next **All Youth Night** will be **March 18th** with 4 PM Mass followed by pizza, faith and fellowship from 5-6:30 PM. Bring your friends!

Attention Edge & Life Teen

*Join us for Friday Night Light, a Bible Study on the Book of Exodus, followed by pizza and fellowship this Friday, **March 16th** at 8:15PM.

* Holy Thursday Pilgrimage is March 29th after the 7 PM.

For more information and youth opportunities, please visit www.olhoc.com/ym or contact Mrs. Marlen Coles marlen@olhoc.org.

Steubenville Youth Pilgrimage Trip Fund

Parish Fundraiser will continue. Envelopes can be picked up by the board in the Narthex and placed in the collection basket next week, or bring it to the office. Thanks for supporting our OLHOC Youth!



Save the Date!

Living Stations presented by our Youth! Friday, March 23rd at 7 PM

Married Couples Weekend Retreat @Priestfield Center in Kearneysville, WV – Weekend of March 16 or March 23. Come away spiritually refreshed and enlightened for each other!
For info. Call Elaine Galeone 410-252-5355

2018 Annual Jubilarian Mass

Cardinal Donald Wuerl will celebrate the annual Jubilarian Mass honoring couples married 25, 30, 35, 40, 45, 50 and 51+ years on Monday, June 17, 2018 at 2:00 PM at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception. Please call or email the parish office to register by Monday, April 16.



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OUR LADY'S LITTLE CHRISTIANS

<http://www.olhoc.org/preschool.html>

Now Open – Registration for Fall 2018

For more information, send an email to preschool@olhoc.org or call the office and ask for Nieda, Preschool Director.

* 2018-2019 Fr. Martin Scholarship Program *

The Father Martin Society announces a new scholarship program for students who wish to enroll in St. Peter's School for its Fall 2018-2019 school term. To qualify for a full scholarship, a child must be a first-time student at St. Peter's School whose family has a limited income and is registered at either St. Peters Parish or Our Lady Help of Christians Parish. A limited number of partial scholarships will be available to current students at St. Peter's School. Scholarships will also be considered for children applying to OLHOC's Our Lady's Little Christians Preschool. Applications are available at St. Peters School and at Our Lady Help of Christians Church. The final date to submit completed applications is March 12, 2018, to St. Peter's School, Attn: FMS Scholarship, 3310 St. Peters Drive, Waldorf, MD 20601. Questions?

Email fathermartinsociety@gmail.com

Community Outreach

The next **Shepherd's Table Dinner** will be held on **Thursday, March 15, 2018 at Good Shepherd Church**. Always looking for menu planning help!

Next Outreach Committee Meeting is April 4 at 7PM in the Social Hall – All are welcome!

Needed and will be blessed! **Meals on Wheels Volunteer** **Route Coordinator**

The Northern Charles Meals on Wheels route is seeking a volunteer to coordinate the route. Helen McLean has been coordinator for the past 21 years. She is 80 and would like to retire. If you are interested, please contact Helen McLean at 301-743-5644 or Pat Viets at 301-645-3291 email patricia1202@comcast.net.

Silver Diner Helps Support St. Peter's School

Pick up a Silver Diner fundraiser card in the Church office and sign up for rewards that benefit the school we support.

For more details go to

<https://www.silverdiner.com/ewdw-rewards>

Prayer Requests *

We are asked to pray for: Johnné Webster, Dionne Gause, Dorian Webster, Alfred Brown, Doris Chesley, James Thompson, Mr. and Mrs. Richard Dunham, Tom Casey, Connie Miller, Windsor Family, Jessica Holt, Sue Holt, Wilbur Etbauer, R. Todd Iddings, Michael Proctor, Nellie Lynch, Edmund Madden, Abigail Poole, Sarah Parker, Dennis Forgash, David DeMarr, Joseph Mason Proctor, Larry McGraw, Cecilia Spinks, Chantelle Angelini, Sonia Knapp, Lynn & Ronald Henrion, Ebony Jenkins, Tina Gallagher-Detwiler, Judy Studds, Vincent Argiro, Sr., Pearl Green, Fr. Robert Pittman, and all our military and civilians serving in harm's way.

**Names will remain on our list for 3 months. Please call the parish office to re-request a name after 3 months or to remove a name when the person has regained health.*

Mass Intentions this Week

- Saturday, March 10, 9:00 AM: Tom Casey**
- Saturday, March 10, 5:00 PM: OLHOC Parishioners**
- Sunday, March 11, 8:30 AM: Elizabeth Marcus (+)**
- Sunday, March 11, 10:00 AM: José & Anna Maria Gonzáles (+)**
- Sunday, March 11, 11:30 AM: David Norgren (+)**
- Sunday, March 11, 7:00 PM: Dr. Milton Galván & Mrs. Maria Lam**
- Monday, March 12, 9:00 AM: Julie Toscan (+)**
- Tuesday, March 13, 9:00 AM: David Norgren (+)**
- Wednesday, March 14, 9:00 AM: Josephine Jacques (+)**

The Light is on for You!

All Wednesdays in March

6:00-6:45 PM & 7:45-8:30 PM

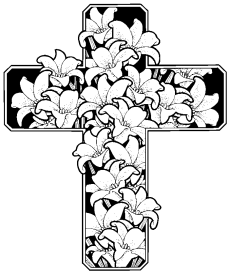
Saturdays 4:00 PM & Sundays 6:30 PM

Healing Mass - Saturday, March 17

**OLHOC welcomes back Fr. Martin Scott next Saturday.
4:00 PM Confessions, Healing Prayers after 5:00 PM Mass**

Altar Guild Easter Flowers

In Memory of or in Honor of a Loved One



Pick up a floral offering envelope in the Narthex and return it next week with names and your kind contribution.

Mass Readings for March 18, 2018

Fifth Sunday of Lent – Year A for use with the RCIA

First Reading – Ezekiel 37: 12-14

Second Reading – Romans 8: 8-11

Gospel – John 11: 1-45

Maryland March for Life

The Maryland March for Life is just around the corner! On Monday, March 12, join over 1,000 pro-life Marylanders from around the state in Annapolis to pray, march, and rally for the pro-life cause in our state. You can find out more about the March at www.mdmonthforlife.com. Parking for the events of the Maryland March for Life is available on the grounds of St. Mary's Catholic Church in Annapolis, but even better yet, St. Joseph's in Pomfret is sponsoring a bus!

Please mail for information at stjoeformation@comcast.net

