

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

Dear Parishioners,

Imagine for a moment that on Monday when you get your mail, it includes a letter which says you are coming into a very significant inheritance. However, he does tell you that it will take some time for the estate to be settled so it may actually be twelve months before you receive the million dollars. You, of course, will call the law firm and the lawyer who wrote the letter to confirm that it is true. You speak to the lawyer and he confirms that yes, it is indeed true..

Now, given what you have just been told, would the fact that you are coming into this wonderful inheritance make any difference in your life right away? For example, would knowing that the inheritance is coming change the way you think about your monthly bills, your income and your savings account? Would you perhaps be less anxious about how it will all balance out? And if you have health issues and are concerned about your medical expenses, would the fact that you were getting the inheritance help you to worry just a little bit less? And for those of you with children still in school, how would the inheritance affect your thinking about your ability to provide for them? Would you perhaps have a bit more confidence that it would all work out? We are all asked to make charitable donations to the Church and other deserving organizations. Some of us also have relatives that sometimes need our help. What would knowing that you had the inheritance coming do to your attitude about giving to others? Would the promise of the inheritance help you to be more generous?

I think it is safe to say that for most of us the promise of such a wonderful inheritance would change our lives in a lot of ways. Of course, the promise of the inheritance will only change our lives if we believe the promise is true. If we are skeptical of the promise and doubt what we have been told about the inheritance, then the promise will have no real effect in our lives until the day we actually receive the check. In the meantime, we will continue to worry about our finances, our health and our ability to provide for our families. We will also find it difficult to even consider being more generous with our resources.

Now on Monday when you get your mail you probably won't find a letter informing you that you will be inheriting a million dollars. However, each one of you here has received the promise of an inheritance that it is infinitely greater.

Each one of you has received a promise from Jesus Christ of the forgiveness of your sins. Jesus has also promised your eternal happiness in heaven with God the Father. Additionally, Jesus has promised that you will also be reunited with all your loved ones who have gone before you in faith, that your bodies will be raised up in full health and that in heaven every tear will be wiped away.

These truths are at the core of our faith as Christians and we proclaim these beliefs every Sunday when we profess the Creed. The question is, does believing in the promise of our eternal inheritance and the other promises made to us by Jesus Christ, have the effect that it should have in our lives now? The promise of getting a million dollars in twelve months would change the way we think and act right away. Even before we received the inheritance and took it to the bank, we would all feel much more secure and less anxious about our future than we do now. We would also be much more generous to others.

Our trust in the very real promises of Jesus Christ should have an even greater effect on our peace of mind and our generosity in sharing of ourselves with others. If we had faith the size of a mustard seed, it would move the mountains of our fears and anxieties so that we could live at peace and with joy. Jesus doesn't want us to wait on being peaceful and happy until the moment we breathe our last here and finally see Him face to face. Our Lord wants us to start living our lives based in His promises now. Jesus wants us to live today in a way that shows that we actually believe His promises are true.

In order to have this kind of faith in the promises of Jesus, there are two things that we need to do. First, we must do what the disciples did in today's Gospel reading. We must ask the Lord to increase our faith in Him. Lord, strengthen my faith in You. This is the prayer we should pray every day. It is probably more important than any other prayer we might say. While we're at it, we should pray and ask for greater hope and charity as well. Secondly, we must consciously choose to live each day trusting that all the Lord's promises to us will be fulfilled. Remember, the Lord Jesus desires your happiness even more than you do. Put your trust in Him and allow yourself to experience that happiness even now. The Blessed Mother, whom we honor this month as Our Lady of the Rosary, is called blessed first by Elizabeth and then by the Church down through the centuries precisely because she believed the Lord's promises would be fulfilled. Let us ask her to pray that we have the same joyful trust in God's promises.

With my prayers,
Fr. Conley

ST. MARY'S ANNUAL \$60,000 RAFFLE ! You may purchase a ticket on your own for \$100 or consider purchasing a ticket with your friends, family or co-workers. Split the ticket cost and the winnings. There are 20 opportunities to win cash prizes adding up to \$60,000. Your ticket enters you in all 20 drawings. Our first drawing for \$1,000 will be held on October 25th at the school's Annual Fall Festival. The Grand Prize Drawing of \$20,000 will be held on March 6, 2020.

FOLLOWING CHRIST SERIES BY BISHOP BARRON MEETS THIS THURSDAY AT 6:30PM IN THE HALL.

OCTOBER 12TH ROSARY RALLY

St. Mary's Bryantown will host a Rosary Rally on Saturday, October 12 at 12 noon. The purpose of this public rosary is to honor the requests of our Blessed Mother's messages at Fatima and to pray for our nation and the world. Join us! For more info or to help in any way, please contact slay@bryantown.org. *The Public Square Rosary Crusade is coordinated by the America Needs Fatima campaign.*

SMB PK3 AIDE POSITION

St. Mary's Bryantown has an immediate opening for a PK3 teacher's aide position. If interested, please email your letter of intent and resume to Sharon Caniglia at caniglia@bryantown.org.

ST. MARY'S ANNUAL FALL DINNERFEST is fast approaching. This year it will be on Sunday, November 3rd. We are in desperate need of volunteers. There will be a volunteer meeting on October 16, in the Notre Dame Center at 7pm. For more information contact Ellen Bowles at 301-481-8137 or heresellen@hotmail.com

LOOKING FOR SOMETHING WORTH WHILE TO WATCH? Check out FORMED. We are happy to offer you a great new free resource for entertainment and faith formation. Through the generosity of a donor, every parishioner can now enjoy movies and spiritual resources on your own computer. For free access to FORMED just type in our custom URL stmarysbryantown.formed.org into the search box on your web browser. Then click on the register tab and begin to enjoy **FORMED** while growing in your understanding of our faith.

SAVING BABIES is a new Pro-life organization under the purview of Sacred Heart Church in La Plata. After **NEXT** Saturday/ Sunday Masses of October 12/13, Saving Babies brochures will be distributed here at St. Mary's. The brochures include a signature page for you to Go on Record as being pro-life. These signature pages will be presented to Charles County and state Representatives to effect legislation. Please bring your address labels with you to Mass to make it easy to put your contact information on the signature page. For more information about Saving Babies, go to www.sacredheartlaplata.org.

WORLD MISSION SUNDAY

Next weekend, we will celebrate World Mission Sunday. Pope Francis invites the entire Church to support mission dioceses in Africa, Asia, the Pacific Islands, and parts of Latin America and Europe. Please keep the Pope's missions in your prayers and be generous next weekend!

Ladies! Join the ENCOUNTER GRACE TEAM on Saturday, October 26, 2019 as they host a full-day women's conference on the campus of St. Mary's Ryken High School in Leonardtown Maryland. The **Begin Again Catholic Women's Conference** is a day designed with YOU in mind. Featuring keynote speaker **Laura K. Fanucci** (author of *Everyday Sacraments, To Bless our Calling*) and musical guest **Corrie Marie**, Tickets on sale at www.encountergrace.com. Early bird registration is highly encouraged as tickets are limited. Contact Penny Bailey or Laura Roland at: encountergraceco@gmail.com with questions.

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MASS INTENTIONS FOR THIS WEEK:

SUN: 8am Mary Margaret Queen, 10am Maurice I. Long, Sr., 12N Parishioners, **MON:** 8am Mary T. Edelen, **TUES:** 8am Tony Goad, **WED:** 8am Betty Jean Buttice, **THURS:** 8am Ernest J. Keller, Jr., **FRI:** 9:30am Jacqueline Truss, **SAT:** 9am Don Pobst, 4pm Joseph Weingarden.

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR DAILY

PRAYERS: Stephen Balenger, Mary Bowes, Bill Branick, Deacon Gene Burroughs, Quint Burroughs, Brenda Callahan, Joe Cross, Agnes Curtis, Chuck Davis, Kendall Farrell, George Fassel, John Fassel, Arlene Gandolfi, Kevin Gardiner, Lee Gardiner, James Gibson, Wilson (Sonny) Goldsmith, Zynae Green, Irma Johnson, Angie Kalnasy, Regina Kijesky, Marie Knobel, Lillian Komar, Susie Logan, Florence Middleton, Eda Moon, John Nichols, Johnny Norman, Mary Reeves, Melissa Rollins, Sylvene Savoy, William Leon Savoy, Edna Sweeney, Beth Weise, Brice Zimmer.

OFFERTORY COLLECTION LAST WEEKEND:

\$10,085.60. \$2,361.00 of that was received from people who contributed through online banking. The unidentified donations totaled \$933.00. We received \$12.00 for our School Support.