

**FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK**

Dear Parishioners,

In the Gospel reading today Jesus gives us a lesson on the nature of prayer. Prayer is obviously very important to Jesus. The Gospels often describe Jesus Himself in prayer before critical moments in His ministry like the selection of the Twelve Apostles and during His Agony in the Garden. In fact, Our Lord's disciples were so moved by Jesus' example of prayer that they asked Jesus to teach them how to pray. This is when Jesus gave to them and to us the "Our Father," This prayer, along with the "Hail Mary" and other prayers are learned by Catholics at an early age when we are taught the importance of prayer.

However, even though we know that praying is important and we have learned certain prayers, prayer can still be, as the Catechism says, a "struggle." "And because praying can be a struggle, I think it is important to consider that when Jesus gave us the "Our Father" He wasn't just giving us the words to a prayer but, through the words Jesus was teaching us, to pray the way He does.

So when we take time to pray, whether it's for 10 minutes or 30, the Lord's prayer not only gives us the words to pray, it also helps to structure our prayer.

When we pray, "***Our Father, who art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name,***" we are accepting Jesus' teaching to call God our Father. In calling God our Father we also praise Him for His holiness. And while praising God, we thank our Father in heaven for all His many blessings. It is good to name our blessings when we pray. For example, we should thank Him for life itself, the gift of faith, salvation, our loved ones, our friends and things that have happened recently. So, following Jesus' teaching on prayer, we should begin our prayer by praising our Father and thanking Him. Remembering our blessings strengthens our confidence in God and helps us to give of ourselves to others.

When we pray, "***Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven,***" we are joining Jesus in praying that the people of the world will accept God's will in their lives and live by His commandments. If people on earth were as accepting of God's will, families would be strong, the poor would have what they need, crime, violence and war would all end. So we need to pray that God our Father's will is accepted. Of course, in saying this part of the prayer we are also praying that with the Holy Spirit's help, we ourselves might be obedient to God's will in our own lives just as Jesus was. After praying this phrase we should spend a few moments considering whether we are truly accepting God's will in our lives or are there things we are holding back on. If we're struggling in some areas we should pray for the grace to trust more and submit ourselves completely to Him.

When we pray the petition, "***Give us this day our daily bread***" we request that God will provide for our spiritual and material needs. We also entrust to God our cares and concerns. After we pray this phrase it would be good to stop for a few moments and think of what we want to ask God for and consider if what we are asking is as important to Him as it is to us. We should also pray here for the needs of others, our loved ones & friends, our parish, our Church and our world. And as we ask Our Father for our daily bread, we should do so with confidence that He will indeed give us what we truly need.

When we say "***Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us,***" we admit the truth that we do sometimes sin and we need God's forgiveness. We also acknowledge that God's forgiveness can touch us only if we open ourselves to it by forgiving others, even our enemies. This is a good time to examine our consciences concerning our relations with the Lord and with others during the previous day. We should ask ourselves if all our thoughts, words and actions were what they could and should be.

When we say "***And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil***" we acknowledge that we can be easily tempted by the Evil One and that in times of trial our faith can be weak. This is a good time to think about what we will be doing, who we will be with, and what our challenges will be for the next twenty-four hours. When we take a few moments to anticipate our day in prayer, it can help us to live knowing that the Lord is right there with us in every moment. It can also give us peace of mind in the challenging times because we have already brought our needs to the Lord in prayer and we know he will deliver us from evil.

So, if you sometimes struggle to pray, a good way to overcome difficulties is to use the prayer the Lord gave us, the "Our Father," and use its verses as a guide for praying. Through this prayer Jesus teaches us to thank our Father, to pray for His will, to trust that He will give us what we need and forgive our sins, and that our heavenly Father will deliver us from all evil. These five points can be committed to memory by using the simple phrase "The Father will give, forgive and deliver."

With my prayers,  
Fr. Conley

**RETIRED PRIESTS COLLECTION**

The second collection next weekend is for the Retired Priests of the Archdiocese of Washington. Let's join together to help to provide care and housing for our retired Priests so they can live in dignity.

**ST. MARY'S ANNUAL FALL DINNERFEST WILL BE ON SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 3RD. WE ARE IN DESPERATE NEED OF VOLUNTEERS AND BAKED GOODS FOR THE BAKE TABLE!**

**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. The Grand Prize Drawing of \$20,000 will be held on March 6, 2020.

**TOTAL CONSECRATION TO JESUS THRU MARY** (St. Louis de Montfort) is a life changing 33 day devotion to bring you closer to Jesus! We encourage you to participate in a series of talks given by Fr. Martin Flum beginning on **Friday, November 1 at 8 pm**, St. Michael's Church, 17502 Aquasco Road, Brandywine, Maryland. These talks will continue on consecutive **Fridays at 7:30 pm**, November 8, 15, 22, and 29. You will complete your 33 Day preparation for Total Consecration on the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception, Sunday, December 8. To celebrate the Act of Consecration together, Fr. Flum will provide a Holy Hour at 4 pm. Don't miss this opportunity to learn more about Church teaching on why devotion to the Mother of God is so important. You can obtain the preparation book at the talks or stop by Heavenly Presents Catholic store in Leonardtown for a half price discount (or download the App or a pdf file). Register to attend by going to [www.connectstmarys.com](http://www.connectstmarys.com). Your registration is free and will help us to prepare the right amount of materials.

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### INDIVIDUAL UNBOUND MINISTRY PRAYER

Everyone is fighting invisible battles ~ negative thoughts, secrete sins, unhealthy relationships, destructive habits, idols, false identities, resentments and bitter wounds that never seem to heal. What if you could reach out and be touched by God's love, and never be the same? Unbound Ministry releases the power of Jesus into wounded hearts. On **Saturday November 16<sup>th</sup>, 2019** there will be trained teams available to provide individual prayer using the Unbound Model of prayer at **Immaculate Conception's school** in Towson, MD. Unbound Prayer is based on 5 scriptural keys that help you unlock those areas of your life where you want to receive greater freedom, healing & spiritual growth. If you would like to schedule an appointment or want more information, please contact Dan or Peggy Gahagan **by Monday November 11<sup>th</sup>, 2019** at [unboundministrymaryland@gmail.com](mailto:unboundministrymaryland@gmail.com). We ask that you read at least the first 7 chapters of the book ***Unbound***, by **Neal Lozano** prior to scheduling an appointment to receive Unbound prayer (available at [www.heartofthefather.com](http://www.heartofthefather.com)).

### MASS INTENTIONS FOR THIS WEEK:

**SUN:** 8am William Harley, 10am Joseph Fitzgerald, 12N John Merz, **MON:** 8am Carol Johnson, **TUES:** 8am Jason Huber, **WED:** 8am Sonny Jameson, **THURS:** 8am Henry Jones, Jr., **FRI:** 9:30am Janet Joy Brillantes & Enrique & Nicanora Santiago **SAT:** 9am Linda Hammett, 4pm Joseph O'Neill.

### PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR DAILY

**PRAYERS:** Stephen Balenger, Mary Bowes, Bill Branick, Anne Burroughs, Deacon Gene Burroughs, Quint Burroughs, Brenda Callahan, Dottie Chick, 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, Terry Morris, John Nichols, Johnny Norman, Mary Reeves, Melissa Rollins, Sylvene Savoy, William Leon Savoy, Edna Sweeney, Beth Weise, Billie Whittington, Michael Whittington, Jr., Brice Zimmer.

### OFFERTORY COLLECTION LAST WEEKEND:

\$9,877.55. \$2,919.00 of that was received from people who contributed through online banking. The unidentified donations totaled \$671.00. We received \$50.00 for our School Support.