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## A WORD FROM FR. LEWIS ...

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HS

JMJ

### Fourth Sunday of Easter

Joyful greetings in our Risen Lord, my dear parishioners.

It is said “Absence makes the heart grow fonder,” and that is most certainly true in this priestly heart of mine. I miss you all considerably. Nevertheless, I trust in God that He has us all in His strong and provident hands and that He is watching over and protecting us. God is in control. Let us trust in Him and in His Mercy.

Our spiritual role as Catholic Christians at this time is to be committed to prayer, for relief from the effects of the Coronavirus and for protection of all from the effects of the virus, particularly those on the front lines.

To that end, Bishop Malooly and the other Bishops of the United States of America and Canada will reconsecrate their respective dioceses to the Blessed Virgin Mary on Friday, May 1 at 3PM. Please see the video link, which can be found at the top of this e-mail, for more information and participate in the live-stream on [facebook.com/usccb](https://facebook.com/usccb) or at [usccb.org/consecration](https://usccb.org/consecration).

Bishop Malooly also extends an invitation to all in the Diocese to pray through Our Lady of Wilmington the Catholic Diocese of Wilmington Coronavirus Novena beginning May 2 and ending on May 10 by accessing [this link](#). Please join me in that daily prayer petitioning our good and loving God, through the intercession of Mary, our hope in time of crisis, to relieve us all of the pandemic.

Please join me as well, either virtually or in person, as the North Carolina Clergy participate in the National Day of Prayer on May 7 at Noon by praying for law enforcement, medical professionals, churches and families and more on the grounds of Calvary Baptist Church 1120 Market Street, Denton, MD. The event is a “drive-in” event with social distancing rules in effect. You may also access the event on [Facebook](#) at [Caroline County Concerts of Prayer](#). I have been given the great privilege of leading the prayer for families.

Please keep in your prayers the eternal repose of the soul of Fr. William Lawler, a priest from the Diocese of Wilmington, who died April 30, unrelated to the virus. You may remember Fr. Lawler as he would come to the parish’s Reconciliation Services. He was about 1 ½ years shy of being ordained for 50 years. He was the associate pastor at my home parish, Holy Rosary, when I was a wee lad. He will be greatly missed. Please also pray for our Diocese, as Fr. Lawler is the fourth priest in 14 months to die (Fr. Campbell of St. Christopher’s died February 2019, Fr. Klein of Cathedral of St. Peter in September, and Fr. Hilary, as you know, April 2). We need men to discern the Priesthood now more than ever. (Click [here](#) to read an article about Fr. Lawler in this week’s online edition of *The Dialog*.)

This weekend is Vocation Awareness Weekend, and I have the great joy of announcing a FOURTH recent vocation from our parish: Amanda Krow will enter with the Little Sisters of the Poor to serve the elderly poor, so that they know at all times that they are not alone but loved by our loving God. We congratulate Amanda and her whole family, as we do Emily Powell, Brett Carmean and Peter Schirmer V. That is four from our parish in just under a year’s time! That’s the way to BE Parish! But you know what that also means: two women pursuing consecrated religious life and two men pursuing the Priesthood. WE NEED A TIE-BREAKER! Prayerfully discern if God is calling you to religious life or the Priesthood and then let me know, so that I might help you in your discernment. Discernment can happen at all stages of life.

Finally, the month of May signals a deepened devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary as Mother of God and as our spiritual Mother. We will crown Our Lady on Mother's Day, May 10. Also, in celebration of Mother's Day, I welcome you to use your weekly envelope to mail in your Mother's Day Remembrances or to contact the office so that I might include your Mother's Day intentions at Mass on May 10. Thank you for all who have been mailing in their weekly offertory or using our online giving program. I encourage you all to continue to give as you are able in order to support and sustain our beautiful and wonderful parish.

May God bless you and keep you; may He let His face to shine upon you and be gracious to you; may He always look upon you and give you peace.

Please know of my prayers for you all.

In Christ our Risen Savior,  
Fr. Lewis

## OTHER NEWS FROM THE PARISH OFFICE

### REMEMBERING IN PRAYER THIS WEEK...

Patricia Brady ~ Peggy Brittingham ~ Joan & Frank Mollick ~ Kathleen Green ~ Patricia McWilliams ~ Helen Dill ~ Cheryl Harris ~ Judy Edmonston ~ Edie Crank ~ Patricia Freedman ~ Michael Alt ~ Michael Keating ~ Christina Jewell ~ Debbye Jackson ~ Kenny & Debbie Winn ~ Clark Johnson ~ Janet Kibler ~ Karen Coward ~ Kelly Presnell ~ Ron Safchick ~ Rita Miedl ~ Nelson Owens ~ Roy Dean ~ Tobey McWilliams ~ Agnes Metzler ~ Cynthia Makas ~ Ernie Blazejak ~ Alex Wood ~ James Coleman ~ George Simacourbe ~ Delaney Tull ~ Su Lappin ~ Al Buccalo ~ Maria Poptanich ~ Mark Sellman ~ Ben Shirley ~ Georgia Smithmyer ~ Doris Sharp ~ Kevin Flynn ~ Frances & Edward Cartrette ~ Rob Pasciak ~ Ann Blazejak ~ Gage & Shawn Kelley ~ Benjamin Pin & Family ~ Ruth Susini ~ Rita Kucharski ~ Julia Seiler ~ Ginny Lewis ~ Butch Petroski ~ Michael Petroski ~ Ruth McCullough ~ Mary Jo Clancy ~ Gary Stewart ~ Jeffrey Kinnamon ~ Carmen Guzman ~ Gavin Hood ~ Craig Kelley ~ Ron Champagne ~ Larry Close ~ Anne Ogletree

Do you know someone in need of prayer? *Let us know and we'll add their name to the list.* Has someone on the list experienced healing? *Let us know if we can remove their name and offer prayers of thanksgiving.*

### MASS INTENTIONS & MASS CARDS

[Here is a link](#) to a list of the current Mass intentions through May 31st.

If you are in need of a Mass card, please contact Lori Parks ([lparks@beparish.com](mailto:lparks@beparish.com)). Cards can be mailed to recipients on your behalf or to you directly.

### PARISH OFFERINGS, ONLINE GIVING and HELP IF YOU NEED IT

During this time when our churches are closed, many of our expenses continue. We also recognize that these times may find our parish families facing difficult financial circumstances. As you are able, offertory and other weekly collection donations can be mailed to the Parish Office (PO Box 459, Ridgely MD 21660). Or, you can sign-up for [WeShare](#), our parish's online giving platform, by visiting this link (and [here](#) is a simple guide to online giving). Should you have any questions about offertory or online giving, you can contact Marie Freeman at [mfreeman@beparish.com](mailto:mfreeman@beparish.com). Most importantly, if you find yourself in need of financial assistance, especially for things like food, rent or utilities, please contact the Parish Office via e-mail ([parishoffice@beparish.com](mailto:parishoffice@beparish.com) or [frlewis@beparish.com](mailto:frlewis@beparish.com)) or by phone (410-634-2253).

**BEPARISH ROCKS!** In a spirit of fun and in an effort to stay connected and share our care and love with one another during this time of quarantine and isolation, a group of parish volunteers has been busy painting rocks with messages and images of faith and inspiration. The underside of each rock is labeled with the words "beparish" and the rocks will be left at the homes of various parishioners, anonymously if possible, in the hopes that they will be found and will bring a smile to the face of those receiving them (the rocks will be left in places where they are easy to see such as front porches, etc...). If you receive a rock, perhaps you will keep

the smiles going by placing the rock at the home of another parishioner you know to brighten their day. And of course, should you choose, you can get in on the creative fun and paint your own rocks to share with others. Help us get the word out - our parish rocks!

#### THANK YOU TO OUR BULLETIN SPONSORS!

We encourage you to continue to support the businesses that support our parish by sponsoring ads on the back of our printed bulletin ([click here to view their ads](#)). If you need something during this time which these businesses can provide, please be sure to reach out to them. We thank them for their generous support of our parish.

ARE YOU UNINSURED? HAVE YOU RECENTLY LOST YOUR HEALTH BENEFITS COVERAGE? Maryland Health Connection has opened an emergency special enrollment period for uninsured Marylanders who have no insurance, recently lost insurance, loss of job or reduction in hours or change of income.

Seedco Navigators are working remotely to provide assistance over the phone.

The Seedco hotline is 866-492-6057. Online help is also available

at [www.marylandhealthconnection.gov](http://www.marylandhealthconnection.gov). Click [here](#) for a flyer with more information.

#### HAVE YOU CHECKED OUT "MAKING SPACE FOR GRACE"?

Last Sunday, Fr. Lewis began offering a new segment on the Godcast YouTube Channel. It is called "Making Space for Grace" and each segment includes a brief reflection on a tenet of the Catholic faith. This past week, Father has shared some great information about the Sacrament of Baptism. Take some time to check it out - the videos are short and very informative. Put it on the "learn something new everyday" section of your to do list!