

THIS WEEK IN THE PARISH

Monday, March 19th

Eucharistic Adoration & Confession—5 to 8 PM

Tuesday, March 20th

Gospel Faith Sharing—11:30 PM (3)

Bible Study—7 PM (1)

Fr. Stack—The Book of Revelation

Wednesday, March 21st

“The Light is On” Adoration & Confession - 6 to 8 PM

Designated Group: Ladies of Charity

Intention: Pray for the sick and homebound

Friday, March 23rd

Stations of the Cross—7:30 PM

Saturday, March 24th

Ladies of Charity—Distribution of Easter Meals

9 Am to 12 PM (2) - Service Opportunity

Sunday, March 25th—Palm Sunday

Procession of Palms from Boardwalk—8:15 Mass

Hospitality—After 8:15 Mass

High School “GIFT” Program—6 to 8 OM (3)

Church (1)

Religious Education (3)

Padua Hall (2)

Ewald Center (4)

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

MARCH 19TH—25TH

Monday:	John Buckley r/b Deacon Ed & Nora Baker
Tuesday:	Katie Settle Young r/b Veith Family
Wednesday:	Doris Laprade r/b Ladies of Charity
Thursday:	Frances Francis r/b Eileen & Jim Kleinheinz
Friday:	Peyton Lanham (L) r/b Mom and Dad
Saturday:	Randall D. Holmes r/b Woodburn Family Judy Harger r/b Judith McCarthy
Sunday:	Mary Margaret Healy r/b Nina Teti Parishioners

“AND I WILL GIVE THEM REST”

Please pray for the repose of the souls of all deceased members and their families.

PRAY FOR OUR MILITARY

Please pray for all members of our parish serving our country both here and overseas.

FROM THE PASTORS DESK

Lent: Grace to Break Free

Dear Brothers and Sisters of St. Anthony’s,

I was reflecting on the freedom that we possess as Baptized Christians the other day and I recalled an incident from one of the many movies about the life and ministry of Jesus of Nazareth. The scene depicted Jesus in a garden setting in conversation with Mary Magdalene. Mary, before her conversion to Jesus, told Him that she was “Free.” This type of freedom meant that she could go and do as she pleased. Jesus, however, informed her that she was not free; but she could be!!

Freedom is an interesting concept. As Americans we live in the “Land of the Free and the Home of the Brave.” Even though we sing this in our national anthem, there are many among us who are in the captivity of sin and bondage. I include myself in this equation. One of the reasons I go to confession weekly is that I have come to enjoy being free from sin and its demise.

St. Paul, in the letter to the Galatians, writes about freedom in which he says: “My brother, you have been called to freedom but not the freedom that gives us free reign to the flesh.” What he means by free reign of the flesh is the attitude that I can do what I want, when I want and with whom I want. This is bondage in its purist form. What proceeds from that is conduct which is self destructive. He mentions envy, selfish rivalries, outbursts of rage and factions, to name just a few. These proceed from the flesh. On the other hand, he speaks about the freedom that comes from knowing Jesus and forming a relationship with the living God. What proceeds from that profound friendship is love, peace, joy, chastity, and faith. There are more, but the point is obvious. There are no restrictions on these, which truly set the soul free.

As we now enter beyond the halfway point in our Lenten observances, let us strive to put these fruits of the Holy Spirit into practice in our lives. Conversation, the saints tell us, is a constant endeavor. We must work at it all the time; we cannot relax our efforts. While it may seem as drudgery and hard work at the beginning it truly springs forth into new life and a life worth living.

When you study the spiritual life you first learn about the three stages that the soul must pass through. The first stage is Purgation. Here the soul purges or rids itself of all undue attachments. This is hard work!! But taken seriously it leads to the second stage of Illumination. This is where the soul begins to see that the climb up to the mountain of holiness was worth it. You view for the first time the beauty of the life lived in God. As you continue up the road you come to the third stage of Union with God. The Unitive life is the life that Jesus was offering Mary Magdalene. Freedom is only found in the life of grace and walking through this life with God.

Peace, In Christ Jesus, Fr. Stack

FAITH FORMATION

Families are reminded to come and participate in Family Stations of the Cross on Friday, March 23rd at 7:30 PM. Check the sign-up sheet and copy in the Office if your family would like to participate.

"GIFT"

High School "GIFT" program will meet next Sunday, March 25th at 6 pm.

SOCIAL MEDIA OUTREACH

St. Anthony's is looking for a volunteer to help maintain and manage it's social media needs (Facebook, Website etc.). You can contribute to our parish by making our social media a place where parishioners gather to share information and reflect on parish life, and where other users can find and get to know our community. If you are interested or feel called to serve in the way please email Father Stack at:

fr.jamesstack@gmail.com.

2018 JUBILARIAN MASS

Cardinal Donald Wuerl will celebrate the annual Jubilarian Mass honoring couples married 25, 30, 35, 40, 50, and 50+ years on Sunday June 17th at 2 pm at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception. Names of Jubilarians need to be turned in to St. Anthony's parish office by Monday, April 16th.

ST. BERNARDINE'S

On the fourth Sunday of each month, we invite you to bring non-perishable foods to any Mass for St. Bernardine Parish (in Suitland) for their parish food pantry. You may leave your donations in the large white baskets in the foyer of the Church.

Designated dates this month: March 24th and 25th.

BIRTHRIGHT OF PRINCE FREDERICK

Birtheright is in need of volunteers to provide pro-life counseling to women facing an unplanned pregnancy. Experience in counseling is not necessary; just a heart for women and a desire to be a compassionate witness to the life of the unborn. If you are interested in donating three hours a week to our clients, please contact Birtheright at 410-257-1402 for information. Applications are due by April 16th and a day of training will be held April 21st.

ST. FRANCIS DE SALES SPRING OYSTER FEST

St. Francis de Sales in Benedict will be holding their annual oyster fest on March 24th from 12 to 3 pm at the hall, 7209 Benedict Ave. Enjoy all you can eat local fried, scalded and oysters on the half shell at the outdoor raw bar, steamed shrimp, ham and a variety of home-made items. Cake and dessert sale, raffle and game of chance. Make reservations or tickets at the door: Adults \$25, Children \$5. For information call 301-274-3416.

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK

Vicki Baxter, JB, John Bell, Sam "Bo" Bradley, Marlene Bradshaw, Jack Bragger, Ralph Carrello, Bill Carroll, Helga Cuevas, Luis Cuevas, Jean Davis, Sig Degitz, Luke Engler, Jo Finch, Linda Foresta, Anthony Fowler, Taylan Fowler, John P. Flynn, Noah Christopher Haas, Marie Heaton, Maslynn Holmes, Cory Honoker, Roza Ivanac, Kayla Johnston, Shirley Kallal, William Kallal, JoAnn Kery, Rick Kollinger, Brian Lloyd, Donna Lynch, Mark Mann, Walter Matziet, Kelly McCarley, Jennifer Melanab, Margie Edwards Morgan, Joanne Nielsen, Mary Ogle, Doris Pettko, Darley Phillips, Payton Phillips, Ray Pyles, Jonathan Rieger, Carolyn Ritch, Joel Rivera, Grayson David Rodriguez, Wayne Romanek, Gery Rosen, Kristy Salek, Bunny Tate, Betty Theurer, Carolyn Vargas, Susan Vilcheck, Pat Waak, Shannon Wink, Richard Walton, Sue White.

PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD: MARCH 25TH, 2018

First Reading: Isaiah 50:4-7

Isaiah describes the pain and insults of the Servant of God. Yet he sounds hopeful when describing God as his help, knowing he will not be disgraced.

Second Reading: Philippians 2:6-11

Paul exults Christ's great sacrifice of humbling himself to become human and die on the cross.

Gospel: John 12:20-33

Jesus was afraid of the suffering he knew he must face. Yet he explained just as a grain of wheat must die to be harvested, he had to face his hour of suffering to glorify his Father's name. Jesus explained that once he was lifted from earth, he could draw all people to himself, lifting them to eternal life.

GOSPEL QUESTION

What do you have to let go of in order to rise to new life?

CONTRIBUTIONS

Thank you for your continued support of our Parish.

Offertory March 11th—8,555.81

Poor Box—\$305.73

Easter Flowers—\$1,614.95

January—February Financial Summary

Total Offertory:	\$ 91,429.07
Paid Expenses:	\$ 89,894.81
Unpaid Bills:	\$ 31,857.53