

January 19, 2020

Second Sunday of Ordinary Time

Dear Parishioners,

January is Pro-life month and our attention is drawn to the sorrow of mothers and fathers who have chosen to go through an abortion. Rejecting the responsibilities of parenthood, they have made a decision that will remain with them all their days. In reflection, they will at some point, by the mercy of God, acknowledge their responsibility.

Here is where the grace and mercy of God shines forth. But once the parent faces the reality of what their decision means to them, to God and to the child, suddenly the battle intensifies. Are they going to humbly go before God in confession and hand this over to the gentle Shepherd and be set free? Or are they going to deny that it is wrong, lose the opportunity to reconcile with God and cast themselves down into the valley of shame?

Hedonism, that is the pursuit of pleasure for the sake of pleasure alone, has consequences. But in order to defend and maintain the false notion that we are free to act in any way that our flesh demands, the pleasure seekers enter the very unpleasant society of the damned. Contraception and "free sex" demand a solution to the power of procreation. For them the gift of procreation becomes an inconvenient problem.

Yes, that dark valley of shame is peopled by all of those who stubbornly refuse to acknowledge God's role in creation, who deny his right to establish what is right and wrong and are too ashamed to admit, even to God, that they did what they secretly wish they did not do. The brash post-abortive celebrities who claim that they are pleased with themselves... fool only themselves. No mother's heart escapes the tragedy of the death of her child.

Yet the mercy of God awaits their surrender to the truth. The mercy of God allows gentle reminders of the child lost. The loving concern of our eternal Father looks past the sin and seeks the sinner. Oh, that the guilty might acknowledge their sin and bring it to the tribunal of mercy!

"Jesus heard this and said to them, 'Those who are well do not need a physician, but the sick do. I did not come to call the righteous, but sinners.'" (Mk 2:17)

As we proclaim the Gospel in season and out, our approach to the on-going crisis of hedonism in our culture always opens the door to grace, mercy and reconciliation. That path can only be found by acknowledging our transgressions and humbly seeking God through conversion of mind and heart. Hearts of mothers and fathers are bearing tremendous burdens that the Lord of Life seeks to take away. The Truth sets us free.

Mother of Mercy, pray for us, Fr. Flum

Daily Mass would be impossible!

Some would say, "our family is too busy; we are all so involved." The Lord's reply, "With men this is impossible: but with God all things are possible." (Matt. 19:26)

"Again, it is a common excuse to say: 'Well, I should be only too happy to go to Mass every day, if I could; but really it is beyond my power. I have to earn my bread, to support my family, and, even as it is, it is as much as I can do, by constant attention to business, to make ends meet, without sacrificing an hour, or half an hour, of my day to hearing Mass.'

To this I reply: 'What about the help that God would give you, my friend, and the Grace and Blessing that would go with your work in return for the little Sacrifice you make in going to daily Mass? Do you think God will allow Himself to be outdone in generosity, or that He is not able, by the Blessing and Success He will grant to your efforts, to make up to you, a hundredfold, for the hour or half hour you give to His service?'"

"You are in business, or in a profession, or otherwise occupied - cannot, and will not, God, in return for the Homage you do Him, by hearing Daily Mass, make your business, or your profession, or occupation a thousand times more successful than your own unaided efforts, even if you were to slave from morning till night, could possibly make it? Cannot He ward off a thousand sources of failure? Is He likely, in return for your Fidelity in His Service, to allow you and your family to starve or fall into penury? Listen to His own Words on the subject: - 'Be not solicitous, therefore, saying - What shall we eat, or what shall we drink, or wherewith shall we be clothed? ... For your Father knows you have need of all these things'. 'Seek ye, therefore, first, the Kingdom of God, and His Justice, and all these things shall be added unto you.'" (Matt. 6:31-33) (Rev. J. McDonnell, S.J.)

Readings for the week of January 19, 2020

Table with 2 columns: Day and Readings. Rows include Mon, Tues, Wed, Thurs, Fri, Sat, Sun with corresponding scripture references.

MASS INTENTIONS

Table with 4 columns: Day, Date, Time, Intention. Rows include Saturday through Friday with specific dates, times, and intentions for parishioners and families.



Hurry!! Still Room on the Bus for the Right to Life March on Jan. 24th

Contact Joanna for information at evangelization.stmichaelbaden@gmail.com

If you can't march, PRAY! Sacred Heart in La Plata is hosting the Southern Maryland Pro-Life Mass on Jan. 24 at 9 AM, preceded by all night adoration!

Here is the order of events:

- All night adoration begins 1/23 at 9 PM
Doors open 7 AM / Benediction 7:30 AM
8 AM Keynote address by Claire Culwell (abortion survivor)
Mass 9 AM - Fr. Aaron Qureshi, homilist
*Buses depart for Rally & March in DC at 10 AM.

MINISTRY SCHEDULE FOR NEXT WEEK

Table with 3 columns: Day, Date, Time. Rows for Saturday (01/25/20) and Sunday (01/26/20) listing Rosary Leaders, Servers, EMHC, and Lectors.

YOUR SACRIFICIAL OFFERINGS

Table with 2 columns: Location and Amount. Rows for St. Michael's (\$3998) and St. Dominic's (\$1046).

Walking Where Jesus Walked -- Holy Land Pilgrimage!

Join us in the footsteps of Jesus, October 18 to 27, 2020. We will visit many holy places including: Nazareth, Cana, Galilee, Jerusalem, Bethlehem, Gethsemane, Holy Sepulchre, the Jordan River, Dead Sea and more!

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK: For those who suffer from chronic illness, especially Joe Aviles, Angela Farmer, Madison Brady, Ann Canter, Charlene Cardwell, Tom Cardwell, Joyce Chambers, Thomas Chambers, Jackie Chapman, Brianna Daniels, Dorothy Dunston, Kathy Fisher, Mabel Hamilton, Florence Henderson, Crystal Johnson, Bernice Kirby, Marie Knobel, Wanda Langley, Betty Lindsay, Kenny Lindsay, Adam Lumpkins, Rachel Makle, Michael Mohun, Ralph and Regina Nasatka, Fannie Newman, Joyce Pickeral, Rev. Robert Pittman, Betty Proctor, Dawn Russo, Lucille Shanks, Dee Smith, Geraldine Stewart, Willie Stewart, George Thomas, Terry Wilson and Belinda Windsor, may their crosses be joined to the Cross of Jesus.

Michael and Dominic Cinema Presents...

UNPLANNED

About the film: Unplanned (2019) tells the gripping, true story of Abby Johnson, who was a prominent pro-choice lobbyist and director of a Planned Parenthood facility, involved in upwards of 22,000 abortions... until she had an experience that changed her life. Watching this film could change your life, too. Don't miss it!

When: Wednesday, Jan. 22nd

Doors open at 6:30 PM
7 PM Showtime!

Where: The Parish Hall

Who: Everyone! Bring friends!

What to Bring: A dish, snack, or dessert to share, if you are able.

Call the parish office (240) 681-3551 or visit our website stmichaelsbaden.weconnect.com to RSVP!



PRO-LIFE LECTURE and NATIONAL PRAYER SERVICE

Pro-Life leader entrepreneur, poet & storyteller Sean Flannigan will deliver the 25th Annual March for Life kickoff lecture, On man's Valiant Journey for God, Family and Country, Friday, Jan. 17th, 7:30 pm - Rock Creek Knights of Columbus- 5417 West Cedar Lane, Bethesda, MD For more info. Go to www.DefendLife.org.

The 26th Annual National Memorial for the Preborn and their Mothers and Fathers will be held the morning of the March for Life, Friday, Jan. 24, 2020 at Constitution Hall in Washington, DC, 1776 D St., NW (18th and D St) Free Admission, no ticket required. Mass at 7:30am (Doors open at 7am). Interdenominational prayer service 8:30am to 10:30am. March of Life rally follows. Visit www.nationalprayerservice.com for information.