

February 2, 2020
The Presentation of Our Lord

Dear friends in Christ,

The Presentation of Jesus in the Temple offers us rich material for contemplation of the Christian mystery. Forty days after the birth of Christ, we recall the moment when Jesus, as Son of God and son of Mary, entered for the first time into the Temple of Jerusalem.

The Temple is the holy place where the People of God went to meet the Lord in ritual and prayer. The Temple represented God's holiness, a new paradise and the place of encounter with God. On this feast, we recall that unique event when God came to encounter His people with whom He became united by the Incarnation in the womb of Mary.

St. Sophronius offers us a reflection on the Light that entered the Temple that day: *"Our lighted candles are a sign of the divine splendor of the one who comes to expel the dark shadows of evil and to make the whole universe radiant with the brilliance of his eternal light. Our candles also show how bright our souls should be when we go to meet Christ. The Mother of God, the most pure Virgin, carried the true light in her arms and brought him to those who lay in darkness. We too should carry a light for all to see and reflect the radiance of the true light as we hasten to meet him.*

The light has come and has shone upon a world enveloped in shadows; the Dayspring from on high has visited us and given light to those who lived in darkness. This, then, is our feast, and we join in procession with lighted candles to reveal the light that has shone upon us and the glory that is yet to come to us through him. So let us hasten all together to meet our God.

The true light has come, the light that enlightens every man who is born into this world. Let all of us, my brethren, be enlightened and made radiant by this light. Let all of us share in its splendor and be so filled with it that no one remains in the darkness. Let us be shining ourselves as we go together to meet and to receive with the aged Simeon the light whose brilliance is eternal. Rejoicing with Simeon, let us sing a hymn of thanksgiving to God, the Father of the light, who sent the true light to dispel the darkness and to give us all a share in his splendor."

Again, we are reminded by St. Sophronius that no one is to be left in the darkness. Reflecting on the brilliance of God's arrival, while yet hidden in the tiny frame of an infant, He comes to meet Jew and Gentile alike. While our world is still enveloped in shadows caused by man's fall, we can be torches burning with the light and love of Jesus.

Simeon and Anna's dedication to prayer made it possible for them to recognize his arrival.

*Blessed be God in the arms of Mary,
 Fr. Martin Flum*

The Fishers of Men Project

The Heart of Jesus thirsts for souls. So, for love of His heart we seek to bring to him those who are separated from the Body of his Church. To that end, each family is asked to prayerfully consider for whom we should pray that they may experience the invitation of the Lord personally.

Then you are asked to draft a petition that we will insert into the General Intercessions at Mass after the Creed. Don't worry too much about the form, we will adjust as necessary. **Your petitions can be entered on-line or dropped in the collection or sent by email to the office.**

As he was walking by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon who is called Peter, and his brother Andrew, casting a net into the sea; they were fishermen. He said to them,

***"Come after me,
 and I will make you fishers of men."***

This is not a judgment on others. Rather, we are driven by the Holy Spirit to share with our brothers and sisters the gifts that we have received. In doing so, we satiate the thirst of our Lord and show our love for God and for our neighbor.

\$40,000 Grant received

The news should be shared that the \$40,000 grant which the Archdiocese authorized last July was paid this week to the Parish and Mission. The replacement of the Heating and Air Conditioning in the hall is complete and so the grant has been paid off. We owe our thanks to the Archdiocese for this tremendous help as we continue to refurbish the parish hall.



Food Pantry & Clothing Closet will BOTH be open on the 2nd Saturday of every month **9am - 11am**. Visit our website for more details:

stmichaelsbaden.weconnect.com

The food pantry is always in need of staple foods such as canned tuna and chicken, canned soup, peanut butter, jelly, and spaghetti sauce. Your donations of any of the above items and any other nonperishable items are greatly appreciated!

FIRST FRIDAY

February 7th, next Friday, is First Friday of the month. We will have an evening Mass at 7:30 PM, preceded by confessions from 7-7:30 PM and followed by Eucharistic adoration with the Rosary until 9 PM. Join us for this evening Mass!

MINISTRY SCHEDULE FOR NEXT WEEK

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|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------|
| Saturday | 02/08/20 | 5pm |
| Rosary Leader: Irene Goldsmith | | |
| Server: April Luzano | Lector: Arlene Bloom | |
| EMHC: TBD | | |
| Sunday | 02/09/20 | 8am |
| Rosary Leader: Betty Lindsay | | |
| Server: Dan Wilson | Lector: Jeanine Wilson | |
| EMHC: TBD | | |
| Sunday | 02/09/20 | 11:30am |
| Rosary Leader: Kevin Mondorff | | |
| Server: Taylor Nickens | Lector: Chris Patterson | |
| EMHC: TBD | | |

Readings for the week of February 3, 2020

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| Mon | 2/03/20 | 2 Sm 15:13-14,30;16:5-13/Ps 3/Mk 5:1-20 |
| Tues | 2/04/20 | 2 Sm 18:9-10,14b,24-25a,30-19:3/Ps 86/MK5:21-43 |
| Wed | 2/05/20 | 2 Sm 2, 9-17/ Ps 32/Mk 6: 1-6 |
| Thurs | 2/06/20 | 1 Kg 2:1-4,10-12/1Chr 29/Mk 6:7-13 |
| Fri | 2/07/20 | Sir 47:2-11/Ps 18/Mk 6: 14-29 |
| Sat | 2/08/20 | Sir 47:2-11/ Ps 18/Mk 6:14-29 |
| Sun. | 2/09/20 | 1Kg 3:4-13/Ps 119/ Heb 2: 14-18/ Mk 6:30-34 |

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.

National Blue Army Shrine of Our Lady of Fatima



Saturday, April 25, The World Apostolate of Fatima-Archdiocese of Washington Division is sponsoring a 1-day bus pilgrimage led by Msgr. Balbago to the National Blue Army Shrine of Our Lady of Fatima in Washington, NJ. Cost is \$60.00. For more information call Monica at 301-949-5710.

Young Adults!!

Join the youth movement! We have a young adult group here (**WINGS**) that is spiritually thriving, having fun, and serving together. To find out more, talk to Joanna Mason (the organist) after Mass or contact her at the parish office.: (240)681-3551 or evangelization.stmichaelbaden@gmail.com

YOUR SACRIFICIAL OFFERINGS

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| St. Michael's | |
| Offertory Collection | \$ 3581 |
| St. Dominic's | |
| Offertory Collection | \$ 1101 |

"Healing our Wounds"

A free **Morning of Recollection** next Saturday 02/08/20 at Immaculate Conception Church in Mechanicsville will be presented by Rev. Scott Woods beginning with 7:30 am Mass, Breakfast, Talk 1, break/Chaplet of Mercy, Talk 2 and a Healing Service beginning at 11:30. For more info call: 301-475-7139. "I am the Lord who heals you." (Ex. 15:26)

Second Annual Men's weekend Retreat

This year's theme: *DEFEATING YOUR GIANTS- one Battle at a time*. Registration is now open on Anima Christi Retreats website (www.AnimaChristiRetreats.org) This retreat is a great opportunity for men to encounter Christ and develop friendships with other local Catholic men. The presenters are Fr. Larry Swink, Fr. Dan Leary and Fr. Michael DeAscanis (Baltimore). Music by Michael Corsini and Paul Doman. Location is the Malvern Retreat House in PA and the fee is \$220. Fr. Flum highly recommends this retreat!

As a Parish and Mission, we will be developing how we will participate in this worthy initiative. More to come!



The 25th anniversary year of Evangelium Vitae gives us a wonderful opportunity to assess, expand, and communicate resources to pregnant moms and families in need. We are inviting parishes, through the support of their bishop and pastor, to join a nationwide effort from March 25, 2020 to March 25, 2021 entitled: "Walking with Moms in Need: A Year of Service." An initiative of the Pro-Life Committee of the US Bishops.