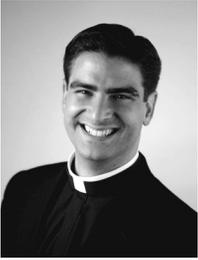

FEBRUARY 20 & 21, 2021



Dear Friends in Christ,

In the first reading for today, having saved Noah and all who had been on the ark, God establishes his covenant with Noah and his descendants after him. As a sign of this covenant, God placed the rainbow in the clouds.

Saint Peter says that Jesus suffered for us that he might lead [us] to God. That's the good news of the Gospel – the doors to salvation in heaven have been opened to us!

Today's Gospel passage about Christ's 40 days in the desert is from Mark's Gospel, and it is far shorter than the corresponding passages in Matthew or Luke. Mark focuses less on the temptations themselves and ends with the heart of the New Testament message: Jesus says, This is the time of fulfillment. The kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the gospel. Our Lord's time in the desert was one of preparation for his ministry. We can prepare during Lent for our participation in Paschal Mystery (of Christ's suffering, death, burial and resurrection) by thinking of three questions.

First: How have we been saved by God already in our lives? Are there times of trial from which we've been delivered? It's so easy to see only what's in front of us, and the sufferings of the moment. Reflect back on years gone by and actively look for ways that God has delivered. This should serve to deepen our trust in God.

Second: How have we been led to God? How have we been blessed, and saved? What methods of prayer brought us closest to him? Take those lessons and take advantage of them this Lent.

And the third question: How might we best follow the Lord into the desert? Perhaps focusing on all the penitential practices of the season (prayer, fasting and almsgiving) might be a way to open our hearts to the Kingdom. The Kingdom, having been rooted in our hearts, enables us to bring it to others.

Yours in Christ Jesus,

Fr. Marco

FUNERAL MASS For Kelly Cutchember will be at IHM on Saturday, February 27th. The viewing will be at 11 am and the Funeral Mass will be at 12 noon.

GARDEN AND GROUNDS MINISTRY We have various projects around the church that need to be completed. Any adult or child would be welcome. If you want to volunteer, please contact Martha Davie by phone or text at 240-434-3510. Thank you!

MEN'S DISCERNMENT RETREAT Cardinal Gregory invites men in their 20s, 30s, and 40s, who are interested in learning more about the priesthood, to attend a discernment retreat led by priests and seminarians of the Archdiocese of Washington. The retreat will be held the weekend of March 26 to March 28 at Saint John Paul II Seminary and the Washington Retreat House in Washington, D.C. The retreat will be an opportunity to pray and reflect on God's call, meet priests and seminarians, hear their stories, and learn more about the Seminary and priesthood. There is no cost to attend, but registration is required. Please register at <https://dcpriest.org/young-adults>. For more information, contact Fr. Mark Ivany at 202-636-9020. Please note that all COVID-19 protocols will be in place to ensure everyone's safety.

BASKET AND BAG RAFFLE St. John's School is hosting a weekly bag and basket raffle through March 17. Each week, new designer bags and fun gift baskets are available. View the weekly options and purchase tickets at <https://www.auctria.com/auction/SJSBagFundraiser>. Raffle winners are announced every Friday at <https://www.facebook.com/sjsbagbingo>.

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL OF IHM Our food pantry provides food to those who need assistance. We'd like to have you help us bag groceries from the food in our food pantry for our clients, or to pick up food from grocery stores in our area that donate to us. We do this throughout the week, excluding weekends. We have meetings just once a month. If you'd like to volunteer in our food pantry, please call 301-863-8193 on Mondays, Wednesdays or Fridays from 8:30 to 11:30 am, which is when the pantry is open. Leave your name and number and we will work to get you started as soon as you'd like.

HELP OUR MARRIAGE Do you feel alone? Are you frustrated or angry with each other? Do you argue, or have you just stopped talking to each other? Does talking about it only make it worse? Retrouvaille (pronounced retro-vi with a long i) helps couples through difficult times in their marriages. This program has helped many couples experiencing difficulties in their marriage. For confidential information or to register for the upcoming program, please visit: www.HelpOurMarriage.org, call (443) 400-7017, or email: 3015@HelpOurMarriage.org

IHM MUSIC MINISTRY If you are interested in sharing your musical talents with the parish, there is a place for you in this ministry! Please call Mary at 240-434-8876 (leave a message!).

THE FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT



February 22 — February 28

Monday	1 Peter 5:1-4/Ps 23:1-6/ Matt 16:13-19
9:00 am	Gertrude Toledo (D)
Tuesday	Is 55:10-11/Ps 34:4-7, 16-19/ Matt 6:7-15
5:30 pm	Souls in Purgatory
Wednesday	Jonah 3:1-10/Ps 51:3-4, 12-13, 18-19/ Lk 11:29-32
9:00 am	Robert Waters (D)
Thursday	Es 14:1, 3-5, 12-14/Ps 138:1-3, 7-8/ Matt 7:7-12
5:30 pm	Pamela Jones (D)
Friday	Ez 18:21-28/Ps 130:1-8/ Matt 5:20-26
9:00 am	Concordia Andaya (D)
Saturday	Deut 26:16-19/Ps 119:1-2, 4-5, 7-8/ Matt 5:43-48
9:00 am	Roy Olivant (D)
4:00 pm	Kel;ly Cutchember (D)
Sunday	Gen 22:1-2, 9-13, 15-18/Ps 116:10, 15-19/ Rom 8:31-34/Mk 9:2-10
8:30 am	Alicia Sajnog (D)
11:15 am	Laura Theophilis (D)
1:00 pm	All IHM Parishioners

APOLOGETICS CLASS The next class is on February 22nd from 7 pm to 8:30 pm at St. John's in Hollywood, in the St. Jude Room, of the Msgr. Harris Center. The next class will be "Do you have a soul?" Class is also available via Zoom: see the St. John's parish website.

LOYOLA ON THE POTOMAC Ignatian Weekend Retreats "We Journey in Hope" February 26-28 (Men), March 5-7 (Men), March 12-14 (Women). The weekend retreat fee is \$245/ \$195 for first time retreatants or young adults (35 years and younger).

VIRTUAL SPIRITUAL DIRECTION WITH SPIRITUAL DIRECTOR During this time of physical separation, Our Lady of Bethesda Retreat Center is providing virtual retreats so that you can connect with others and feed your soul. Currently, these programs are being offered at no cost, and a suggested donation of only \$75 per person is greatly appreciated. For more information and to register, go to ourladyofbethesda.org.

LIVESTREAM MASS Join us for our livestream Masses: the 4 pm Mass on Saturdays in English, and 1 pm on Sundays in Spanish at mass.ihmrcc.org.

GOLF TOURNAMENT St. John's School is hosting its annual golf tournament on Thursday, May 6, at Breton Bay Golf & Country Club. Check-in begins at 8 a.m. Shotgun start at 9 a.m. Scramble tournament. \$125 per individual or \$500 per foursome. \$30 cheat packages (mulligans, throw, and string). Food and beverages included. Sponsorship opportunities available. Register at www.sjshollywood.org.

HEALTH SERIES Discuss current nutrition and health topics, learn about low-cost, healthy recipes, and discover new ways to stay active and independent. Join Erin Jewell (erinj@umd.edu, 301-475-4485) for Fresh Conversations, a nutrition education bi-monthly program series for older adults (50+). Register for upcoming sessions at: <https://go.umd.edu/FreshConversationsSTM2020>.

ALTAR FLOWERS/SANCTUARY CANDLES If you would like to donate the Altar Flowers or Sanctuary Candles in memory or for special intentions of a loved one, please call the Parish Office or email at cindy@ihmrcc.org.

SING ALONG DURING MASS For those attending Mass in church, online, or in the parking lot, please join us in song at songs.ihmrcc.org.

BULLETIN DEADLINE Please email your submission to bulletin@ihmrcc.org by Wednesday at 10:00 am prior to the Sunday of publication. All entries are subject to editing.

PLEASE PRAY FOR

THE SICK

THAT THEY MAY BE RESTORED TO FULL HEALTH

Audrey Somers, Louise Shafer, Helen Daye, Kathleen Floyd, Mary Oliver, Judith Ann Allgood, Vince Guerin, Regan Corliss, Jack Makin, Belle Riddell, Corrine Geraty, Jane Keyon, Sarah Crecelius, Linda F. Gieser, Jim Brown, Ralph Gough Sr., Betty LePore, Adele Bavani, Dinnette Briscoe

Please note: names will remain on these lists for two months, unless otherwise notified. To keep a name on the list, please resubmit by contacting bulletin@ihmrcc.org, or call the Parish Office.

PAPAL PRAYER INTENTION FOR FEBRUARY

We pray for women who are victims of violence, that they may be protected by society and have their sufferings considered and heeded.

Follow us on

