



Sixth Sunday
in Ordinary Time
February 16, 2020

Dear Members and Friends of the Cathedral, Saint Mary of the Immaculate Conception, and Saint Patrick,

Last week in this space I wrote about the practice of fasting. Now, as we continue to look forward to the coming season of Lent, I'd like to suggest our focus turn to another pillar of that holy season: almsgiving, donating money or goods to the poor and performing other acts of charity. The Catechism of the Catholic Church describes it as "a witness to fraternal charity" and "a work of justice pleasing to God." (no. 2642)

Of the three marks of Lent—prayer, fasting, and almsgiving—I think it is safe to say that almsgiving is the most neglected. And yet, in the Bible when the three are mentioned together, the emphasis is placed on almsgiving: *Prayer and fasting are good, but better than either is almsgiving accompanied by righteousness ... It is better to give alms than to store up gold; for almsgiving saves one from death and expiates every sin. Those who regularly give alms shall enjoy a full life.* (Tobit 12:8–9) Why is almsgiving ranked so highly, because it involves both of the other disciplines: fasting, because it demands sacrificial giving, and prayer, because whatever we do for those in need, we really do for the Lord. (cf. Matthew 25:40)

In the Gospel we will hear on Ash Wednesday, Jesus presumes that his disciples will give alms. He didn't say, IF you give alms, but "WHEN you give alms...." (Matthew 6:2) Driving

the point home about the necessity of giving to those in need, the late Cardinal George, in addressing the major benefactors of the Archdiocese of Chicago, said, "The poor need you to draw them out of poverty, and you need the poor to keep you out of Hell." Like fasting and prayer, almsgiving is a non-negotiable for a healthy spiritual life, and for a fruitful Lent.

In the late fourth century, Saint John Chrysostom, whom I mentioned last week, looked at the good life people were living in the imperial court, and he was filled with righteous anger. In the name of God, he raged against those who owned toilet seats made of gold, while other people starved in cold hovels. While our commodes are made of less precious materials, most people today enjoy a better standard of life than any Byzantine emperor ever knew, and still there are those who need our charity.

As we approach Lent, let us all consider how we can step up our acts of charity to the poor. Opportunities abound like the Rice Bowl which benefits the work of Catholic Relief Services, contributing to the poor boxes which help our Saint Vincent de Paul Society, or volunteering at the Saint Patrick's Center or with the Ministry of Caring. And let's not forget as generous as we are with the Lord, remember he will never be outdone in generosity!

Let's make our plans for Lent now so that we can spend our forty days growing closer to the Lord.

May God bless you all,
Father McQuaide

Schedule

Please note that Mass will be celebrated at 9:00 AM on Monday, February 17; there will be no 12:10 PM Mass.

Birthday Wishes

Prayers and warm wishes for the following parishioner who has a birthday this week: **February 15:** Megan Maloney

Pray for the Sick

Darlene Bargelski, Facenda Burton, Michael Dineen, Joe Dulin, Cal Fuhrmann, Jaxon Gardner, Valencia Giannantonio, Ann Hagan, Jane Hurlock, David Kidd, Rita Lynam, Bill Marshall, Francesca Olivere, Alice Goetz O'Neill, Teresa Rodriguez, Earlene Roles, Howard Scott and Cheryl Smith.

Masses/Services for the Week

- Saturday, Feb. 15**
4:00 PM Fred Furry
- Sunday, Feb. 16 (Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time)**
8:00 AM Parishioners
11:00 AM Jim and Sonya Brake
Wedding Anniversary
- Monday, Feb. 17 (m, The Seven Holy Founders of the Servite Order)**
9:00 AM Margaret Seitz
- Tuesday, Feb. 18**
12:10 PM Mae Godwin Caldwell
- Wednesday, Feb. 19**
12:10 PM Virginia Lee Parker
- Thursday, Feb. 20**
12:10 PM Rev. Edward Kaczorowski
- Friday, Feb. 21 (m, Saint Peter Damian, Bishop)**
12:10 PM Stanley Bartkowski
- Saturday, Feb. 22**
4:00 PM Parishioners
- Sunday, Feb. 23 (Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time)**
8:00 AM Frances Licki
11:00 AM Ann Gronboldt

You're Invited:

Father McQuaide's Installation as Rector/Pastor

Bishop Malooly will install Father McQuaide as Rector of the Cathedral and Pastor of Saint Mary of the Immaculate Conception and Saint Patrick in one celebration on Saturday, February 22 at 4 p.m. at the Cathedral of Saint Peter. A light reception will immediately follow in the Cathedral School gymnasium. So that we have enough food, please RSVP at <http://www.cathedralofstpeter.com/Rector>

Marriage Help

Retrouvaille of Delaware Valley offers hope for married couples experiencing loneliness, boredom, misery, or frustration in their marriage. Couples learn valuable communication skills and rediscover intimacy. The next program starts February 21-23 at the Family Life Center in Malvern, Pennsylvania. There will be another program on April 17-19. For more information, call (215) 766-3944 or (800) 470-2230. All inquiries are strictly confidential.

Book of Sacred Liturgy Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

February 16, 2020
Readings/Responsorial Psalm Pg. 264
Alleluia Sing to Jesus #965
Ubi Caritas #993
A Mighty Fortress is Our God #988

Word of Life

"Prayer is the foundation of all that we do in defense of human life. Our efforts—whether educational, pastoral, or legislative—will be less than fully fruitful if we do not change hearts and if we do not ourselves overcome our own spiritual blindness. Only with prayer—prayer that storms the heavens for justice and mercy, prayer that cleanses our hearts and our souls—will the culture of death that surrounds us today be replaced with a culture of life."

—"Pastoral Plan for Pro-Life Activities" United States Conference of Catholic Bishops

Cookie Sale

Girl Scout cookies will be available for sale after all Masses this weekend.

Assisted Suicide

Efforts on the part of the Catholic community, other faith groups, the Medical Society of Delaware, the Delaware Health Care Association, Saint Francis Healthcare, and advocates for persons with disabilities, kept physician-assisted suicide legislation from becoming law in 2017, 2018 and 2019. Yet, some lawmakers in Delaware still think that they know better than the medical community and will continue to bow to outside special-interest groups and promote physician-assisted suicide. You are invited to become informed and involved in this important issue. Visit cdow.org/StopAssistedSuicide for information.

Reminder!



**Cathedral of St. Peter's
Mardi Gras
Fundraiser Celebration
Back by Popular Demand!**



**Great Refreshments
and Lots of Fun!**

**Sunday, February 23
12 Noon to 2 pm**

Join us in the Cathedral Rectory for a
Fundraiser to Benefit our Parish!

No Admission Charge

Please bring your checkbook!

All Are Welcome!

RSVP 654-5920 or cathedralstp@comcast.net