



Second Sunday of Lent March 8, 2020

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

I hope that your Lent is off to a good start! Remaining faithful to what the Church asks of us and the resolutions we made for ourselves will only lead us closer to the Lord, which is what the point of Lent—and, indeed, the whole Christian life—is.

One of the main focuses of this holy season is the preparation for Baptism and the new life it brings, won for us on that first Easter. Throughout the world, men and women have heard the call of the Lord and found him in the Catholic Church. In our own diocese, 78 adults are preparing to be baptized into Christ and his Church this Easter. Besides them, another 108 people already baptized as Christians are seeking out full communion with Christ in the Catholic Church through the sacraments of Confirmation and the Eucharist. Together, these 186 people participated in the Rite of Election and Call to Continuing Conversion with Bishop Malooly last Saturday. At this service, the bishop inquired of them and their sponsors about their readiness for the sacraments, then he declared them to be “elect” or chosen for the sacraments. He charged them to use this season of Lent as a time of purification and enlightenment so that they can truly turn away from sin and the devil to be fully embraced by God.

But, just because you and I are already baptized and in the fold of Holy Mother Church does not mean that we are “off the hook” when it comes to preparation this Lent. During this time, the Church—and Christ, himself—calls us to continuing conversion. While this is the formal title of the rite

the Church uses for those baptized outside the Catholic Church seeking full communion, the need for ongoing conversion in our lives is no less for you and me. I think the questions that the bishop uses for those candidates might be a good examination of conscience for us to use this Lent to grow ever closer to God and his Church. Their sponsors were asked these questions, and now it is for us to answer them about ourselves:

- Have I faithfully listened to the apostles’ instruction proclaimed by the Church?
- Have I come to a deeper appreciation of my baptism, in which I was joined to Christ and his Church?
- Have I reflected sufficiently on the tradition of the Church, which is my heritage, and joined their brothers and sisters in prayer?
- Have I advanced in a life of love and service to others?

These questions turn us to the deposit of faith (Scripture and Tradition), the sacramental life of the Church, and the life of Christian service following the example of Christ. In short, they ask how we are doing as Catholics, as believers in Christ Jesus. Let’s take this season of Lent to respond to the call to continually be converted all the more to the Lord who loves us so much that he willingly went to the cross for us so that he could share his divine life with us. To receive that life of grace and be in communion with him and his body, the Church, is what the goal of our lives should be. I can think of no better way to spend our Lent seeking to answer those questions all the more boldly by our lives.

May God bless you all,
Father McQuaide

Birthday Wishes

Prayers and warm wishes for the following parishioners who have birthdays this week: **March 7:** Aiden Johnson;
March 10: Margaret Detwiler

Congratulations to Michael Davidson

Congratulations to our Choir Director, Michael Davidson, on his retirement from the University of Delaware after 39 years of dedicated service. Wishing you the best on the next chapter!

Masses/Services for the Week

- Saturday, Mar. 7**
4:00 PM Parishioners
- Sunday, Mar. 8 (Second Sunday of Lent)**
8:00 AM Charles Shaw
11:00 AM Carl Antle
- Monday, Mar. 9 (m, Saint Frances of Rome, Religious)**
12:10 PM Ruth Kinney
- Tuesday, Mar. 10**
12:10 PM Vy. Rev. Leonard R. Klein
- Wednesday, Mar. 11**
12:10 PM John R. Hahn
- Thursday, Mar. 12**
12:10 PM Margaret and George Seitz
- Friday, Mar. 13**
12:10 PM Living Intentions of the Klein Family
- Saturday, Mar. 14**
4:00 PM Parishioners
- Sunday, Mar. 15 (Third Sunday of Lent)**
8:00 AM James and Lena Moletteire
11:00 AM Bernard Barrosse, III

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.

Attention Gentlemen

The Catholic Men's Fellowship of Delmarva will hold their 1st annual conference on Saturday, March 21, 2020 at the Church of the Holy Cross in Dover from 8:00 a.m. until 3:30 p.m. Featured speakers include Jesse Romero and Father Ed Meeks via live-stream from Baltimore, and Kevin Wells, who will be speaking on-location in Dover. The conference theme is "*The Holy Family/Your Holy Family.*" Bring your son. Bring your dad. Bring your buddy. The tickets are \$35.00 per person or \$65.00 for a father and son going together. For more information, and registration information, visit facebook.com/CatholicMensFellowshipofDelmarva.

Book of Sacred Liturgy

Second Sunday of Lent

March 8, 2020

Readings/Responsorial Psalm Pg. 204

Tis Good Lord, to Be Here #882

Ubi Caritas #993

Parce Domine #809

Word of Life

"To celebrate the Gospel of life means to celebrate the God of life, the God who gives life... In every child which is born and in every person who lives or dies we see the image of God's glory. We celebrate this glory in every human being, a sign of the living God, an icon of Jesus Christ" (*The Gospel of Life* 84).

Catholic Charities to Honor Mike Hare

Mike Hare, Executive Vice President for Development at the Buccini Pollin Group will receive the Msgr. Thomas J. Reese Award at Catholic Charities Annual Tribute Dinner on Wednesday, April 1. Mike serves on Bishop Malooly's Pastoral Council and on the Vocations Admissions Board for the Diocese of Wilmington. The Msgr. Thomas J. Reese Award recognizes exemplary individuals who have demonstrated a deep commitment to promoting and restoring the well-being of people—the Catholic Charities' mission. The Most Reverend W. Francis Malooly, D.D., Bishop of the Diocese of Wilmington, will present the award at the dinner to be held at the Chase Center on the Riverfront. To learn more about the Annual Tribute Dinner and our honoree, or to support the Tribute Dinner through sponsorship or ticket purchases, visit the Catholic Charities webpage for the dinner at www.cdown.org/charities. You may also call Catholic Charities at (302) 655-9624.

Coronavirus

"Amid the growing concerns regarding the COVID-19 virus, it is important to be mindful of common sense practices that should be observed at all times. The faithful of the Diocese of Wilmington are urged to observe standard precautions, including practicing good hygiene, washing hands frequently and covering your mouth when sneezing or coughing. Parishioners are also reminded that if they are sick, especially with flu-like symptoms, they should stay home for their own well-being and that of others. If parishioners are sick or suspect they are sick with a contagious illness, they are not bound by the Sunday Mass obligation. The faithful should also be reminded that they should not receive from the chalice if they are feeling ill."

St. Patrick's Parade After-Party

The New Castle County Irish Society, 1301 S. Rodney Street, will host an 'After Parade Party' on Saturday, March 14th from 1:00 to 6:00 P.M. Everyone is welcome to continue the festivities. The music of *John Kelly* will be featured. Admission: \$8.00 for members; \$10.00 for non-members; Free for Children 12 and under. Cash bar and food will be available.