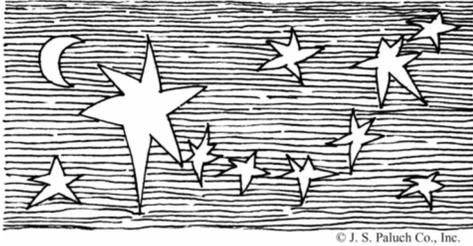


FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

February 8, 2015



The LORD tells the number of the stars and calls them by name.

-Psalm 147:4

MASS INTENTIONS

| | | |
|----------------|-----------------------------|--|
| MON., | Feb. 9th | Weekday |
| 7:00 | A.M. | Bob Stephan r/o Bob & Agnes Paulis |
| TUES., | Feb. 10th | St. Scholastica, Virgin |
| 12:00 | P.M. | Richard Zakashefski r/o Wife, MaryAnn |
| WED., | Feb. 11th | Our Lady of Lourdes |
| 7:00 | A.M. | Robert & Loretta Goodwin r/o Goodwin Family |
| THURS., | Feb. 12th | Weekday |
| 12:00 | P.M. | Joseph & Christopher Comune r/o Comune Family |
| FRI., | Feb. 13th | Weekday |
| 7:00 | A.M. | Jerome Kehoe r/o The Franzetti Family |
| SAT., | Feb. 14th | Saint Cyril, Monk |
| 8:00 | A.M. | Maria & Luigi Renda r/o Family |
| 5:00 | P.M. | Parishioners |
| SUN., | Feb. 15th | Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time |
| 8:00 | A.M. | Catherine Canavan r/o Mr & Mrs. R. Stepien |
| 10:00 | A.M. | Maria Bertilda Valencia r/o Bertha I. Gonzalez |
| 11:30 | A.M. | John Struzinski r/o Betty & Ed Koznowicz |
| 1:30 | P.M. | Comunidad Hispana |

LENTEN NOVENA Our Lenten Novena began on Monday, February 2nd and continues every Monday through March 30th at 7:00 P.M. in the church. All are invited.

Week of February 8—14

Sanctuary Candles

Ellen & John S. Micca r/o Allison & Rachel Maggio

PRAY FOR THE SICK...In your charity please pray for the sick of our parish, the sick who remain in our intentions and those whose names are kept on our prayer list in the sacristy. Prayers are requested for the recent deceased: Diana Carolina Carmona Gonzalez.



A Prayer for Marriage

Heavenly Father, through the intercession of the Holy Family,

Help us treasure the gift of marriage that reflects the love of Christ for the Church, where the self-giving love of husband and wife unites them more perfectly and cooperates in your plan for new life created in your image.

Help us support men and women in their vocation of marriage, especially in difficult times when they join their sufferings to Christ on the Cross.

Help us uphold the institution of marriage in our society as the place where love is nurtured and family life begins.

Help us acknowledge that our future depends on this love and on your providential care for us. Amen

Please pray daily for the vocation of marriage.

A note from our Pastor:

Today the Church celebrates “World Marriage Day.” Our Lady of Mount Virgin Parish congratulates and invokes God’s blessing on all husbands and wives on this special day in which we celebrate married life. Please join in prayer for the all of our married couples: “May the Lord continue to bless you as you live out the Sacrament of Marriage each day. May you know the love of God and the love of each other today and always! Amen.”

WEDDING BANNERS

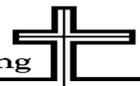
II Victor Gonzalez & Karen Sanchez

LENT IS LESS THAN TWO WEEKS AWAY! Now is the time to begin thinking about how we plan to spend the time of Lenten preparation as we look forward to Easter! Watch next week’s bulletin for information about the different worship and prayer opportunities that will be available at OLMV during Lent. **Don’t forget Ash Wednesday: February 18!**

MARK YOUR CALENDARS:

- Taize Service: March 1
- Knights of Columbus Pasta Night: March 7
- Lenten Penance Service: March 10
- Cultural Diversity Ministry Bake Sale: March 14—15
- Lenten Mass of Anointing of the Sick: March 21
- Baby Shower Collection: March 21—22

Our Weekly Offering



| | |
|---|--------------------|
| January 31—February 1 | \$10,936.00 |
| Hispanic Mass..... | \$667.00 |
| Major Renovations..... | \$2,100.00 |
| OLMV Sisters of Petra House..... | \$3,361.00 |
| Catholic Education Collection additional..... | \$406.00 |
| Weekly Parish Expenses..... | \$19,246.00 |

NAOMI TEA...

Sunday, Feb. 8th...12:30 -2PM in Petra House... We welcome *ALL WIDOWS* to join us for a gathering to share prayer, conversation, and refreshments. This is a wonderful opportunity to meet friends and discover others who have suffered the same loss. No need to register; just come and bring a friend or someone who might need a ride or a personal invitation. Small bite-sized desserts to share are also appreciated!

INTERFAITH GATHERING...

Join us on Sunday, Feb. 22nd at 12:30 PM in the Parish Center Cafeteria for an Interfaith Gathering . Ethnic food will be shared as well as conversation with our Muslim neighbors. This is a wonderful opportunity to express and live out what we say when we pray for *Peace And Unity*. Please sign your name on clipboards located on tables around the church so we can have an estimate of how many people will be coming to share in this gathering. **All are welcome... bring a friend!** Call Sr. James for more information (732-609-1091).



IMMEDIATE OPENING- CATECHIST NEEDED!

Communion Preparation Catechist Needed on Tuesdays (during March/April ONLY) from 6:15-7PM for one student. Please contact Mrs. Zmigrodski in the Religious Education Office to volunteer or request more information.

SACRAMENTS:

First Penance: Due to the inclement weather on January 26 we have re-scheduled First Penance for our second grade children. First Penance will take place on Wednesday, **February 25 at 7:00pm** in the Church.

Confirmation: the Sacrament of Confirmation will be administered to our eighth grade students at 5:00pm on Sunday, April 19 at Mass.

Let us remember our young parishioners in prayer as they continue to grow in wisdom and grace before the Lord and as they continue to prepare to receive the Sacraments for the first time.

Children's Liturgy

February 15th, 10:00 am Mass

All families are invited for refreshments in the Church Hall after the 10:00 am Mass.

CROCHETTIERS AND KNITTERS

For those of you who are new, The Project Linus, we are a national non-profit organization and we offer comfort and security to children going through a crisis through the gift of handmade blankets. Blankets are needed for all age groups from infant to adolescents. The blankets are distributed to hospitals in the area and given to police for children involved in accidents.

We have expanded the Linus project to include baby blankets to our new-born children on the occasion of their baptism into our church. We are looking for pastel colored knitted or crocheted blankets. Blankets can be dropped off in the parish office.



A NOTE FROM FATHER PAT My Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Jesus continues his ministry. Even though we can presume that Jesus has come to Peter's home for a chance to relax and rest, he readily responds to the needs of others. He cures the sick and he casts out demons from those who are presented to him. He then goes off to pray. And we are reminded early in Mark's Gospel of the importance of prayer to Jesus. He must regularly renew himself with the Father so that he can continue his ministry to the people to whom he has been sent.

Peter realizes that Jesus has gone off somewhere so he looks for him. When he finds Jesus, he tries to get him to go back to his home and continue to minister to the crowd that has gathered. At first we are surprised that Jesus not only doesn't return to Peter's house and continue his ministry to those who have come to meet him; rather, he insists that now it is time to go to other towns and villages so he can preach to them. As Jesus tells Peter, "For this purpose have I come."

Indeed, Jesus is aware of his purpose, that is, to share the Good News of the Kingdom of God with the People of Israel. Today as we meditate on our Gospel passage we, hopefully, become aware of a powerful intensity as we encounter Jesus. We are still meditating on the first chapter of Mark's Gospel and we have already been present with Jesus as he comes forward to be baptized by John in the desert, as he enters into his desert (temptation) experience and as he calls his disciples. We have been with Jesus as he shares God's word in the synagogue at Capernaum, we have witnessed, in awe, the casting out of a demon. Finally we spend time with Jesus as he "rests" at Peter's home, as he cures many and also casts out demons. We now are with him as he tells Peter that they must move forward so that he can do that which is his mission: to preach the Good News. Jesus goes forth to surrounding synagogues and preaches the word and casts out demons!

I think that we who are among the 21st century followers of the Lord are invited today to consider the intensity with which Jesus shared the Good News of the Kingdom of God with the people of Capernaum and the surrounding communities. More than this, I think we are invited today to consider "our purpose" as 21st century followers of Christ.

Today, all too often, we seem to lack both the awe and the intensity with which we should encounter and then share Christ. Perhaps what is most telling in this first chapter of Mark's Gospel is the great desire of people, once they have encountered Jesus, to remain with him. Peter tries to get Jesus to go back to his house because "everyone is waiting for you." They have been awed by his presence and want to continue to be with him.

Shouldn't it be the same with us? We encounter Jesus at Mass and we even come forward to share in Eucharist. Yet so often, once we leave the church, the incredible encounter we have just experienced with the Lord easily fades into the background. We continue our day and week, often not even remembering that together we have heard the Word of the Lord and been nourished by the Lord in Holy Communion. Like the believers at Peter's house, we must be waiting for the Lord--always!!!

**In peace and prayer,
Father Pat**

