February 7, 2016

Dear Friends,

As you now know, Lent is (amazingly!) almost completely upon us, beginning on “Ash Wednesday”, February 10! It is probably one of the earliest Lents we have had in the calendar year.

Praise God, there are actually many excellent Catholic spiritual resources available now to aid us in our Lenten journey. One of the best I have discovered of late is those found at www.DynamicCatholic.com (which is founded by popular Catholic author and speaker Matthew Kelly.) With that in mind, I am encouraging you, good parishioners and readers of this column, to participate actively in the:

“Best Lent Ever”

The message? “Don’t give up chocolate this Lent— Have you ever had a memorable Lent? More importantly, have you ever had a life-changing Lent?”

To find out and actually have a life-changing Lent, go to: www.DynamicCatholic.com/Lent and sign up for it! You can also receive a free copy of the wonderful book by Matthew Kelly, “Rediscover Jesus.” Let us pray for one another, that we may indeed have truly our “Best Lent Ever” as we invest in our spiritual lives, build up the Body of Christ, and thus deepen our relationship with God in this “Jubilee Year of Mercy”-

Peace in Jesus,

Fr. Collin

An Invitation

You are invited to take a few quiet moment this Lent. During your hustle and Bustle there is someone who wishes to be present for you. Come spend some time in the quiet of the church with Christ.

When: Tuesdays and Fridays, in particular, from 7-8:20am

St Mary Church has Christ exposed for you in Adoration.

No supplies are needed only yourself.

what is needed …a desire to sit in solitude and quiet for even just a few minutes.

Unsure what to do at Adoration? Kneel when entering the pew to honor the King who is there before you. If you want…Give praise for the Mercy and Love and Creation from God. Ask for the mercy that is there for you. Give thanks for anything and everything. Say a prayer for your day.

Matthew Kelly, the fourth of eight boys, he was raised Catholic, but was “restless and discontent” in his faith until his later years, when a family friend encouraged him to look deeper. This family friend, asked him to spend ten minutes each day in a church in prayer. He now is an author, father, businessman and founder of Dynamic Catholic. A company that produces teaching materials and publishes books to help everyone understand the genius of Catholicism.

Please join us for Catholic Lobby Night on Tuesday, February 9, 2016. See the bulletin insert for more details. For carpool information please contact Patti Jones (301) 992-2123
During this Extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy declared by Pope Francis, we are praying the DIVINE MERCY CHAPLET for our Church, our family and friends, and for the WHOLE WORLD on M-Sat. at 7:45 AM at the Communion rail of St. Mary Church.

If you can’t make it, you can still pray the Divine Mercy Chaplet at home, in the car, or wherever and unite your prayer with ours. What a powerful way to pray in Communion for our world!!!
It’s Baaa-----ck! SCRIP gift card sales to benefit St. Mary Home School Association.
Who is HSA? HSA is the Parent and Teacher Association at St Mary School. They help to offset costs for things that tuition does not cover. In the past this has included air conditioning units for the classrooms, Student Appreciation Day surprises for the children, buses for field trips, an-------d supplies for the classroom. What: Purchase gift cards to use at Martin’s or Weis Grocery stores. They work the same as cash and cost the face value of the card. $25, $50 and $100 cards will be available. A percentage of the sales from the gift cards benefit the HSA. For example: 4 percent of the sales of the Martin’s cards go back into the HSA fund. If there is a demand for other stores we can arrange to offer them as well.
When: The first Sunday of every month after 8:00, 9:30 and 11:00 am mass starting on February 7, 2016.
Where: Parish Center/Fatima Hall (location subject to change).
Why: To benefit our teachers and students of St Mary School.
If you have any questions, please contact Kevin Buckley or Beth Budny-Buckley at key-in.buckley52@gmail.com or 240-625-2943. Thank you for your help and support!

SCHOOL NEWS
Pre-K Story Time will be held on the following dates at Noon. Join Mrs. Stark and Sister Aloys-ius for a story, activity, and snack. This is a free activity but a parent must accompany the child.
SMCS Pre-K Story Time Dates. Call to reserve your space to Rachel O’Connor – 301-733-1184.

2016
February 17 – RSVP by Feb. 12
March 9 – RSVP by March 7
April 13 – RSVP by April 11

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<td>St. Michael</td>
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The collection for February 10, Ash Wednesday is for Eastern Europe. It is a Holy Day of Obligation.

Next week’s second collection is for School Support.

Thank you for your continued generosity!
Join us for our Friday Lenten Suppers

5:45 - 7:00

Food, Community, Children's Lenten activities, Stations of the Cross follow the suppers

Feb 12, Join us for Children's Stations of the Cross 7:30

Feb 12 Catholic Daughters
Soup Mac and Cheese, salad & bread
Children’s Stations

Feb 19
Soup Mac and Cheese, salad & bread

Feb 26
Soup Mac and Cheese, salad & bread

Mar 4
Soup Mac and Cheese, salad & bread

Mar 11 Youth Group
Fish Sandwich, Pierogi, & Cole slaw

Mar 18 CCD
Past Supper, (McCarter's special homemade sauce) Salad

March 18
Join us for Living Stations

Only $4 per person
$15 per family
$1 per carry-out container
Children's Stations of the Cross

Calling all children preschool - 5th grade
To participate in St Mary Church
Children's Stations of the Cross

Friday, Feb 12th @ 7:30-8:15

(practice Feb 12 @ 6:45 in the church)
Contact Mary McNeil
emmbee@look-ma.com
St. Mary Catholic Church 2016 Lenten Calendar

Ash Wednesday, February 10: Masses at 6:30 am, 8:30 am, 10:30 am (School Mass) and 7:30 pm

Meatless Suppers: Fridays, February 12 (soup), 19 (soup), and 26 (soup), and March 4, (soup)
11 (fish sandwich and pierogies), 18 (meatless pasta night)
Pangborn Hall, 5:45 – 7:00 pm

Stations of the Cross:
Fridays, February 12, 19 and 26; March 11 and 18 at 2:00 pm for St. Mary School
Fridays, February 12, 19 and 26; March 4, 11, 18 and 25 at 7:30 pm
*February 12 will be Children’s Stations and March 18 will be 7:30 pm Living Stations*

Penance:
-March 4th-March 5th, 3pm to 3pm: Archdiocese of Baltimore: 24 Hours for the Lord at St. John’s (Frederick) and National Shrine of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton (Emmitsburg)
-Tuesday, March 15th, 7 - 9 pm: Regional Penance Service at St. Ann (1525 Oak Hill Ave.)

HOLY WEEK
March 20, Palm Sunday: normal Masses, 5:15 pm Vigil, 8 am, 9:30 am, 11 am and 12:50 pm

March 23: 7:30 pm – Tenebrae

March 24, Holy Thursday: 8:30 am Morning Prayer; no 6:30 or 8:30 am Mass
7:30 pm Mass of the Lord’s Supper (Communion under both forms), followed by Eucharistic Adoration, with 11:45 pm Night Prayer and Benediction

March 25, Good Friday: 8:30 am Morning Prayer; no 6:30 or 8:30 am Mass;
3 pm Liturgy with Veneration of the Cross and 7:30 pm Stations of the Cross

March 26, Holy Saturday: 8:30 am Morning Prayer; no 8:30 am Mass; no confessions;
7:30 pm Easter Vigil Candlelight Mass

March 27: Easter Sunday, normal Sunday Masses, 8 am, 9:30 am, 11 am and 12:50 pm

St. Michael Catholic Church 2016 Lenten Calendar

Stations of the Cross: Fridays, February 12, 19, and 26; March 4, 11, 18 and 25 at 7 pm

HOLY WEEK
March 20, Palm Sunday: 10:30 am Mass

March 25, Good Friday: 3 pm Liturgy with Veneration of the Cross and 7 pm Stations of the Cross

March 27: Easter Sunday, 10:30 am Mass
FEBRUARY 15-17
WELL OF MERCY:
Meditations on JOHN 4 & the Mission of the New Evangelization

A LENTEN PARISH MISSION
Fr. Robert Schreiner will lead a 3-night meditation on the Gospel of John’s story of the “woman at the well.” Drawing inspiration from the encounter between Jesus and the Samaritan woman, Fr. Schreiner will speak of its meaning for a better understanding of what is meant by “The New Evangelization” in the Church and its central call to encounter Divine Mercy in our lives.

ST. MARY’S CHURCH
224 W Washington St
Hagerstown, MD
www.stmarysonline.org
Mon., Tues. & Wed
7pm – 8:20 pm
Catholic Lobby Night
February 9, 2016 | 3-8 p.m.

Have you ever wanted to weigh in on the decisions your elected officials make on issues important to you as a Catholic? If so, come to the 32nd Catholic Lobby Night in Annapolis, and share with legislators the joyful news of the Gospel lived out through the works of our Catholic ministries, charities, hospitals, schools, parishes and communities!

We will brief you on the relevant issues considered by the General Assembly from a faith perspective, provide shuttles for your visits to your legislators’ offices, and host a reception for all members of the General Assembly with our Bishops and other Church leaders. Sign up today!

**Briefings:**
**St. John Neumann Mission Church**
620 N. Bestgate Road, Annapolis 21403
(3-4:30 p.m.)

**Meetings and Reception:**
**House and Senate Legislative Office Buildings**
Rowe Boulevard, Annapolis
(Shuttles available; 4:30-8 p.m.)

**Registration:**
Event and reception are free but registration is required: [www.mdcatholic.org/LobbyNight](http://www.mdcatholic.org/LobbyNight)

**Questions?**
Mariann Hughes or Chris Santo
410-269-1155 or 301-261-1979
mhughes@mdcatholic.org; chris@mdcatholic.org

“Politics is one of the highest forms of charity because it seeks the common good.”
-Pope Francis
For Husbands and Wives!

CHERISH Retreat

Love One Another

has been planned for the both of you!

Sat, Feb 13th
1:00 – 9:30pm
@ St Mary Catholic Church
224 West Washington Street
Hagerstown, MD 21740

Marriage reflection and Vigil Mass celebrated by

Archbishop William E. Lori

with Fr. Collin Poston and Fr. Brian Nolan

Opportunities for Confession
Prayer and Eucharistic Adoration
Married Couple’s Personal Reflection / Testimony
Reception dinner
…and more

RSVP by Feb 8 at cherishcouples.net
or by calling (301) 797-6493
Who needs the Super Bowl??

when you can earn $ $ $ at the

Knights of the Holy Tabernacle

Young men 8th - 12th grade are invited to play the MONEY GAME and earn money by knowing your CATHOLIC FAITH

Sunday, 7 February A.D. 2016  6:30-8:30pm  Bosco Room 2nd floor, St. Mary Catholic Church Office Building

Feasting!, Fun!, & Faith!
**February 8—14, 2016  Holy Mass Intentions**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Mass</th>
<th>Mass Intention</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mon.</td>
<td>2/8</td>
<td>6:30</td>
<td>Thomas Fortenbaugh</td>
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<td>8:30</td>
<td>Special Intentions of Leo Ortiz</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tues.</td>
<td>2/9</td>
<td>6:30</td>
<td>Robert L. Grimsley</td>
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<td>8:30</td>
<td>Special Intentions of Agnes &amp; Tommy Gregg</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed.</td>
<td>2/10</td>
<td>6:30</td>
<td>Special Intentions of Erik Davis</td>
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<td>8:30</td>
<td>Bill Hudson</td>
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<td>Thurs.</td>
<td>2/11</td>
<td>6:30</td>
<td>Special Intentions of Michael Fahey</td>
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<td>8:30</td>
<td>Poor Souls</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fri.</td>
<td>2/12</td>
<td>6:30</td>
<td>Robert Bruce Brine</td>
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<td>8:30</td>
<td>Alex Kwak</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sat.</td>
<td>2/13</td>
<td>8:30</td>
<td>Legion of Mary Intentions</td>
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<td>5:15</td>
<td>Special Intentions of Catherine Hudson &amp; dec’d husband, Bill</td>
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<td>Sun.</td>
<td>2/14</td>
<td>8:00</td>
<td>Kanya Choonit</td>
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<td>9:30</td>
<td>In Honor of St. Joseph</td>
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<td>11:00</td>
<td>Special Intentions of the Lafollette Family</td>
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<td>Latin Mass</td>
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<td>Thomas Nowawieski</td>
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**Readings for February 7—14, 2016**

**Sunday 2/7 — Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time**

**Monday 2/8 — St. Jerome Emiliani; St. Josephine Bakhita, Virgin**
1 Kings 8:1-7, 9-13 / Mark 6:53--56

**Tuesday 2/9 — The Presentation of the Lord**
1 Kings 8:22-23, 27-30/ Mark 7:1-13

**Wednesday 2/10 — Ash Wednesday**
2 Corinthians 5:20—6:2 / Matthew 6:1-6, 16-18

**Thursday 2/11 — Thursday after Ash Wednesday— Our Lady of Lourdes — World Day of the Sick**

**Friday 2/12 — Friday after Ash Wednesday**
Isaiah 58:1-9a / Matthew 9:14-15

**Saturday 2/13 — Saturday after Ash Wednesday**
Isaiah 58:9b-14 / Luke 5:27-32

**Sunday 2/14 — First Sunday of Lent**

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Please pray for the souls of
Sister Suzanne Moore (January 23, 2016)
who served at St. Mary School from 1947-1971;

Joan Durand, wife of John (deceased);

and

Jim Colombo, husband of Jodi.

May they rest in the Peace of Christ!
Ask the Priest

I say some prayers that suggest I should bless God. How can we bless our creator?

I am not sure what specific prayers you are talking about so let us look at some more common prayers. In the Our Father, we pray “hallowed be Thy Name.” The word, “hallow,” means to make or be holy. In his Gettysburg address, Abraham Lincoln says regarding the cemetery to be consecrated, “But in a larger sense, we cannot dedicate, we cannot consecrate, we cannot hallow this ground. The brave men, living and dead who struggled here have consecrated it far above our poor power to add or detract.” When we pray the Our Father, we are not adding any thing to God’s holiness but by praying this prayer we are reminding ourselves how holy God’s name is. When we pray, “hallowed be thy name,” we are not asking for an increase in God holiness (which is impossible—God is Holy, Holy , Holy, i.e. the HOLIEST) but we are asking that God’s name be made holy IN US. People who use the Lord’s name in vain do not damage or hurt God; they only degrade themselves and hurt their relationship with God. That is why using the name of the Lord in vain is a sin. We pray “Hallowed be Thy Name” not to make God holier but to make ourselves holier. Psalm 103 begins “Bless the LORD, my soul; all my being, bless his holy name! Bless the LORD, my soul; and do not forget all his gifts, Who pardons all your sins, and heals all your ills.” The word “benediction” or blessing, come from two Latin words “bene” and “dicere”, i.e. well said. We bless the Lord not for His benefit but for ours so that we may remember how wonderful, how holy, how deep is God’s love for us. We pray in this manner so that we may become more like God by remembering His holiness.