

## Second Sunday of Lent – February 25, 2018



We are still at the **beginning** of 40 days of Lent, this season of repentance and penitence, but today the Church is already talking to us about the **Resurrection**. We pray more, fast from TV, fun things, favorite foods; we give alms for the poor. In the **Transfiguration** of Jesus in today's Gospel, Peter, James, and John get a glimpse of Christ's **eternal glory**, the glory he claimed fully after the resurrection. **St Paul**, in today's Second Reading, writes passionately about God's power and faithfulness as revealed in Christ. And he actually **changes his emphasis** mid-sentence to take the spotlight **off** Christ's death on the cross and let it shine **on** his glorious resurrection. And in the passage about **Abraham** and Isaac, which narrates events that took place almost 2000 years before Christ, **the release of Isaac** from his bonds gives him new life - this too is a **symbol** of Christ's resurrection.

Even today's sung Psalm response, when it speaks about **walking with the Lord** in the Land of the living and God "**loosening the bonds**" of his servant, is pointing our attention towards Christ's Glorious Resurrection. And yet, Easter is still more than a month away!

What's going on here? It's very simple, really. The 40 Days of Lent are indeed meant to be a time of repentance and penitence, a time of sacrifice and reflection in which we **acknowledge the weight of suffering** in the world and in our lives, suffering that always has its **roots in sin**.

This suffering is always **part** of the story of every human life, with or **without** Christ; but **with** Christ, it is not the **end** of the story. Crosses **purify** us of selfishness, if we allow them to, teaching us to **lean more on Christ** and to have a greater experience of his **wisdom and joy** - his Passover--His Death & Resurrection.

In our Catholic faith, the cross and resurrection are two sides of the same coin; we must never allow ourselves to think of **one** without thinking of the other especially those who are weak, poor, or marginalized. May all the suffering we are enduring the good deeds we are doing be united to the Passion & Resurrection of our Savior to heal us of our sins and make us worthy to enter that Eternal Life He Promises.

Father Blake Evans, Pastor

### ATTENDANCE REPORT

2/18/18

Attendance: 412 souls

Offerings & Tithes: \$5,847

Spanish Mass: \$149

Utility fund: \$581



**Sacred Heart League** will meet, in the music room, on Friday, March 2<sup>nd</sup> after the Noon Mass.



**"Gospel according to Mark"**.

Mondays at 5:45 pm in the Music Room with Fr. Evans.

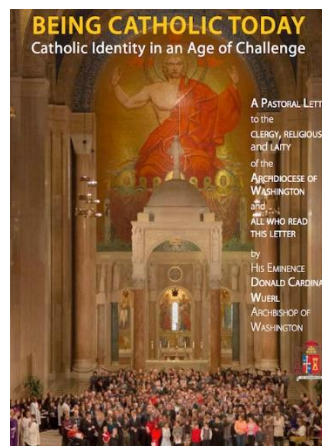
Bring your Bible and a catechism.

St. Mark, pray for us!



### Stations of the Cross – Every Friday

- ❖ after the daily Mass (noon)
- ❖ after the Holy Hour (6:00 pm)



Those who agree to assist the Church in her mission and ministries represent the public face of the Church. Therefore, all employees and volunteers should be commissioned. Commissioning should be completed by June 2018. More information on next week bulletin.



# Mass Intentions

**February 24 – March 3, 2018**

Sat. 2/24	8: 00a	Rohini Perera
	4:30p	Sick homebound parishioners
Sun. 2/25	8:00am	+Rev. Billy Graham
	10:00a	People of the Parish
	1:00p	Nativity Spanish Community
Mon. 2/26	Noon	Alberta Williams (100 Birthday)
Tue. 2/27	Noon	+Cher & Rohan Perera
Wed. 2/28	Noon	Mr. & Mrs. John Naughton (60 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary)
Thu. 3/1	Noon	Rafaela Evans
Fri. 3/2	Noon	+Deceased members of the Sacred Hearth League
Sat. 3/3	8:00a	+Pearl Jefferson
	4:30p	Sick homebound parishioners

## Black History Month

As Black History Month comes to an end, let us continue to pray for All Black Catholics and the contributions they have made. From former slaves to founders of religious orders, these men and women helped shape the U.S. Catholic Church



### **Celebrate Our Candidates for Sainthood**

There are currently six Black American Catholic candidates for sainthood.

- Sister Thea Bowman
- Mother Henriette Delille
- Julia Greeley
- Mother Mary Lange
- Father Augustus Tolton
- Pierre Toussaint

**Let's continue to pray for these candidates.**



**Vocations Tree:** Vocations do not fall from heaven. Like anything in God's plan, being small like a seed, need nurturing, the light of God, care from others, inspiration, trimming, and care. Nativity parish, symbolized by a new year-round Christmas Tree will continue to regularly pray for vocations to Priesthood and Religious Life from our parish and help those in our Archdiocese



## **KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS**

**Keane Council #353**

**Ultrasound Initiative.** Support to save unborn babies lives. The Knights are raising funds to purchase a \$29,750 ultrasound machine to donate to the Capitol Hill Pregnancy Center in DC. Please help us with a donation. If by check, please make the check out to Knights of Columbus Charities, if by cash, please put the donation in an envelope clearly marked "Knights of Columbus Charities." If you would prefer to pay by credit card, to access our website please use this link <http://charities.dcknights.org/ultrasound/> All donations are tax deductible. For additional information, please contact Amado Alvarez [240-381-9276](tel:240-381-9276) or at [acajr2@gmail.com](mailto:acajr2@gmail.com)

**Lenten Fish Fry.** Starting on February 16<sup>th</sup> at 6 pm in the Lounge. This event will occur every Friday during Lent except Good Friday. Dinners are \$10, sandwiches \$5. Proceeds provide grants, scholarships, and awards for parish activities. More information call Bob Newman 301.892.2713 or Peter Gervais 202.494.7347

**Social Sunday** - Please join us in the Lounge this Sunday, February 25<sup>th</sup>, after the 10 am masses, for breakfast and fellowship. There will be pancakes, eggs, breakfast meat, donuts, juice, and coffee. This is a wonderful time for parishioners to have a relaxing breakfast and get to know each other better. Social Sunday is free to all parishioners.

**Dollars and Diapers Outreach Ministry 2018.** Diapers may be dropped off at the front vestibule of the church in the labeled collection containers. Donation envelopes are in a basket located on the altar rail labeled DOLLARS AND DIAPERS. **Please place all monetary donations in the envelopes into the Sunday collection basket while the campaign is ongoing.**