



# Saint Wenceslaus Catholic Church

*Friar Timothy Dore, OFM Cov.  
Pastor*

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Pastoral Associate*

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Lyceum

2100 E. Madison St.....410-675-3320

*St. Wenceslaus is "twinned" with St. Ann Church,  
at Greenmount Ave. and E. 22nd St.  
410-235-8169*

*Masses at St. Ann: Sunday – 9:45 a.m.  
Thursday - 7:00 p.m.*

## MASSES

SUNDAY  
WEEKDAYS  
HOLYDAYS

8:00 and 11:45 am  
8:00 am  
As announced in the bulletin

## CONFESSIONS:

Please contact the parish office to schedule an appointment for confessions

## DEVOTIONS:

**Infant of Prague Novena** - Tuesdays at 8:30 a.m.

**Our Lady of Perpetual Help Novena** - Wednesdays at 8:30 a.m.

**First Friday Holy Hour for Vocations** - 8:30 a.m.

## BAPTISMS:

Adult candidates and parents of infants are invited to contact the pastor so that we can begin preparations for baptism.

## MARRIAGE:

We extend a warm welcome to couples desiring to be married in the church. Please contact us early (six months or more) so that we can work with you to prepare for your wedding.

## PASTORAL CARE OF THE SICK:

Please notify the pastor when a member is unable to come to church. We will be happy to provide pastoral care at home or in the hospital.

## SUNDAY SCHOOL:

Sunday School classes for children and youth meet every Sunday in the Lyceum from 9:30 to 11:30A.M. To register call the church office or Ms. Edith Pumphrey, Director, at 410-488-7069.

## PARISH MEMBERSHIP:

We urge you to register as a member of the parish, so that we can keep you informed of church activities. We will be happy to provide you with church envelopes to assist you in the support of the church. You may register in person at the church office weekdays between 9:00 to 2:00 or by completing the following form.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Street \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

### Check:

New Registration       Moving out of Parish

Change of Address       Want Envelopes

Catholic Review     Yes     No

Please cut out and drop in the collection box or mail to the rectory.

## SAINT WENCESLAUS CHURCH

### First Sunday of Lent

March 5, 2017

## *From the Pastor . . .*

### **My Sisters and Brothers:**

As we begin this Holy Season of Lent, today's Gospel describes "*The Temptations of Jesus in the Desert.*" We're told the tempter (*i.e.*, "*the devil*") approached Jesus as he fasted and prayed, and he offered him various alternative options to his purpose and mission. However, in response to each of these "*ungodly*" temptations, *and to paraphrase just a bit*, Jesus said to him: "*Get away from me Satan, for it is written: Truly, one can only live on the word that comes from the mouth of God, and the Lord your God you shall worship, and him alone you shall serve*" (see Matthew 4:4, 7&10).

These "*temptations*" of Jesus, and his resistance to them, may incline us to reflect on our own experiences of being "*tempted*," and our own struggles resisting them. It's possible when we've "*given in to temptation*" we may have been quick to proclaim the easy excuse "*the devil made me do it!*" After all, didn't Eve use the same excuse in the Garden of Eden; after eating from the tree of knowledge, she proclaimed "*the serpent deceived me, and so I ate*" (see Genesis 3:13). But let's be honest and admit such rationalizations are simply nothing more than disingenuous "*self-justifications.*" And isn't it true such excuses are meant to relieve us from taking personal responsibilities for our actions?

This makes me think of a sign I have seen posted on a tree along a country road on which I sometimes travel. It reads: "*Alcohol is Satan's Brew!*" As Catholics, we don't ascribe to the theology underpinning the sign's message: that is, our world is a place involved in some kind of not-yet-completed cosmic battle between the forces of good and evil. In such a world, the power of Satan would be very real, as he would continue to command forces and dominions, and he would have the ability to tempt and to destroy the otherwise Godly (*this being said, I must here note that people with mental health issues and addictions are subject to forces involving different dynamics altogether; their difficulties and setbacks should never be cited as examples of temptations gone awry due to moral weaknesses—but that's the subject of another essay*). The cosmic battle scenario noted above would suggest the possibility of a devil's power somehow rivaling the Almighty and Powerful God. And this would involve understandings of spiritual realities Catholics simply do not accept.

We believe everything in the created order is good and holy, because God created all that is; this was affirmed when Jesus was born into this world (*i.e.*, *the Incarnation of Jesus Christ confirms the goodness and holiness of everything on earth*). And so, from a Catholic perspective, the only power of the devil over material things is that "*surrendered*" by otherwise healthy people said to be "*tempted.*" We believe such people, especially those empowered by God's eternal grace, are actually enabled to have complete control over "*ungodly*" temptations and sins. And so, they must then take responsibility for their failures, because their so-called "*losses of control*" were really always voluntary, even if something like "*Satan's Brew*" was involved!

Today, as we contemplate "*The Temptations of Jesus in the Desert,*" we are invited to consider the various "*temptations*" we might face, and how we can overcome them as we strive to be men and women of faith. We believe "*one can only live on the word that comes from the mouth of God, and the Lord our God we shall worship, and him alone we shall serve!*" Therefore, let's not be distracted by the false promises and the deceptions of any "*ungodly*" temptations that might come our way. We are in control, and God gives us every power and grace we need to live good and holy lives. And so, as we enter this Holy Season of Lent, let's seek a renewed sense of our own purpose and mission! My friends, let's truly resist all temptations as we "*turn away from sin and believe in the Gospel!*"

**Praise God!** *Friar Timothy*

### PRAYER REQUESTS

Continue to keep in prayer our sick, homebound and recovering members, especially **Arnold Anderson, Donald Benedict, Shrene Burnett, Ike Clayton, Beatrice Hradsky, Irene Gist, Sheila Lambert, Kimberly Lambert, Rosetta Lane, Albert J. Novak, II, Mary Schwartz, Charles Supik, Evelyn Turner, Lillian Tyler and Joseph Knox (brother of Gloria Barber)**. Remember also Fr. Timothy and his family,

relatives, friends, our city, those who serve our country in the military and all the needs recorded in our parish prayer intention book.

### PASTORAL COUNCIL

The next **Pastoral Council** meeting will be held on **Tuesday, March 14<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm** in the church rectory. All members are encouraged to attend. The meetings are opened to all parishioners.



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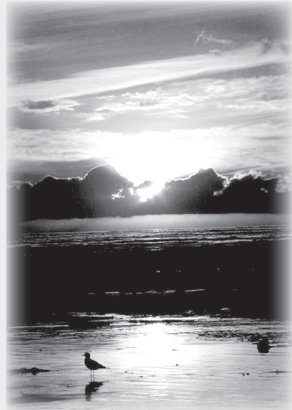
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