



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

' ; œ^aŸ Sunday of Lent

March 12, 2017

From the Pastor . . .

My Sisters and Brothers:

I believe today's Scriptures outline three important points that are very relevant to our lives of faith: first, ***God has a plan for us***; second, ***we need not fear responding to the demands of the plan***, and third, ***we are expected to live out the plan with holiness and with a sense of purpose***. Of course, to each of these we are called to respond faithfully, each in our own personal ways. And isn't the Season of Lent a great time to reflect upon God's plan for us? During these days, isn't it a good idea to contemplate our fidelity to what God calls us to be and to do?

God has a plan for us! In today's first reading, God called Abraham to follow him. He had a plan for him! And so God promised Abraham "*a great nation would be made of him, and he would be blessed*" (see Genesis 12:2a). This also meant the faith and the holiness of Abraham wouldn't be limited to himself but would be passed on those who came after him. God said to Abraham: "*All the communities of the earth shall find blessing in you*" (see verse 3). These blessings then, first given to Abraham as he responded to God's plan, continue to fall upon us. Therefore, as God sent Abraham into the world, he also sends each one of us, and according to that same plan! And just as Abraham responded in faith, and inasmuch as we are part of his family and form "*all the communities of the earth*," so must we respond faithfully to God's plan for us as well.

We need not fear responding to the demands of God's plan for us! The story of the Transfiguration of Jesus is recounted in today's Gospel (see Matthew 17:1-9). According to the account, the Apostles Peter, James, and John went up upon a mountain and were given a spectacular vision of the Christ in all of his glory. The experience filled them with both excitement and tremendous fear, for in it they realized the magnitude of God's plan for them. And through it, they further understood the great sacrifices they would have to make as true disciples of Jesus, and on their way to share in his glory. For this reason, God said to them: "*This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to him*" (see verse 5b). The Gospel tells us when they heard the voice of God "*they fell prostrate and were very much afraid*" (see verse 6). But even so, and in what I believe are some of the most important words from today's Gospel, Jesus said to them: "*Get up and not to be afraid!*" (see verse 7). I believe these words were meant for all of Jesus' followers, including us! Like all the faithful who've come before us, we're called to overcome our fears as we respond to the demands of the Christian life. If we do so, the Gospel promises we will then receive every grace we need to remain faithful to God's plan. Then we will be empowered to endure the sacrifices and sufferings required before experiencing the glory God has planned for us! ***We need not fear!***

We are expected to live out the plan with holiness and with a sense of purpose! In today's second reading, Paul proclaimed to Timothy: "*God has saved us and called us to a holy life, not according to our works but according to his own design!*" (see 2 Timothy 1:9b). With these words, Paul encouraged Timothy to remain faithful to God's plan (i.e., "*design*"), and as such he reminded him to maintain a life of personal holiness as he responded to his calling. This was an obligation placed upon all those who had been saved by Jesus, and so it remains an obligation for us as well!

Let's never forget ***God has a plan for us, we need not fear responding to its demands, and we are expected to live it out with holiness and with a sense of purpose***. And so, may this Season of Lent renew our resolve to follow whatever God wishes for us in our lives. My friends, like Abraham, Peter, James, John, Paul, Timothy, and all other holy men and women who have come before us in faith, may we always remain faithful, and never be fearful, as we follow "***God's plan***" for us!

Praise God! *Friar Timothy*

PRAYER REQUESTS

Continue to keep in prayer our sick, homebound and recovering members, especially **Arnold Anderson, Donald Benedict, Hattie Boone, Shrene Burnett, Ike Clayton, Beatrice Hradsky, Irene Gist, Sheila Lambert, Kimberly Lambert, Rosetta Lane, Albert J. Novak, II, Walter Novak, 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 **Pastoral Council** meeting has been rescheduled for **Tuesday, March 21st at 7:00 pm** in the church rectory.

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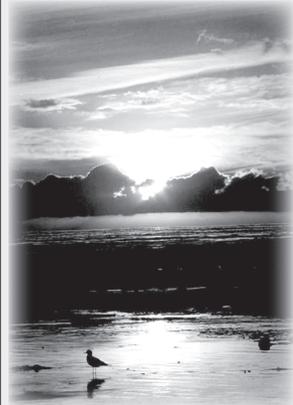
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