



Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Church Newsletter
February 12, 2023

My Dear Parishioners,

As we continue our journey through the Sermon on the Mount, the Church, in her wisdom, continues to give us readings from the Old Testament that show the uniformity of God's loving message to us.

Our First Reading from the Book of Sirach reminds us that the Law of Moses is actually a gift, for as we read, life and salvation come through living God's Moral Law. This is why Our Blessed Savior does not replace what has already been given to us but affirms that the Moral Law is for our own good: *Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law and the Prophets. I have come not to abolish but to fulfill.*

Our Blessed Savior then warns us not to follow the example of the Scribes and the Pharisees of that time, because the Scribes and the Pharisees were too busy looking for "loopholes" in the Law and not embracing the Law as a gift from God. That is why Our Blessed Savior warns us not to look for loopholes in God's Law but to embrace the Moral Law and live it to the fullest: *I tell you, unless your righteousness surpasses that of the scribes and the Pharisees, you will not enter the kingdom of Heaven.*

The author of the Book of Sirach and Our Blessed Savior Himself reminds us this week that the Moral Law of God, given to us through Moses and the Prophets, is a gift. It is a gift that teaches us what is actually good and what is actually evil. With this gift, we can then learn to do good and avoid evil, which then allows us to grow in Grace and Merit and avoid being dragged down by sin. This gift then allows us to grow in the Image and Likeness of Our Blessed Savior and to grow in His Grace. Thus, living the Moral Law allows us to attain Heaven and to avoid the loss of Heaven and the pains of Hell.

This is why the author of the Book of Sirach stresses that there is no wisdom higher than God's wisdom. Those who then learn Divine Wisdom, and then allow it to guide their learning and reasoning and thoughts and actions are in fact the wisest of people: *Many great teachings have been given to us through the Law and the Prophets and the others that followed them, and for these we should praise Israel for instruction and wisdom. Now those who read them must not only themselves understand them but must also as lovers of learning be able through both speaking and writing to help the outsiders. So my grandfather Jesus, who had devoted himself especially to the reading of the Law and the Prophets and the other books of our ancestors and had acquired considerable proficiency in them, was himself also led to write something pertaining to instruction and wisdom, so that by becoming familiar also with his book those who love learning might make even greater progress in living according to the law (Prologue of the Book of Sirach).*

The Book of Sirach was composed about 200 years before the birth of Our Blessed Savior. It was originally written in Hebrew and then later translated into Greek by a relative of the original author. The Book has come down to us under many different titles, such as “the Wisdom of Sirach,” “the Instruction of Ben Sirach,” “the Book of Jesus, Son of Sirach,” and the Latin title “Ecclesiasticus.”

At this time in history, Israel was ruled by Greeks, descendants of the generals of Alexander the Great. These Greek rulers were trying to impose Greek culture and pagan ideas upon the Jewish people. In response, the author of Sirach affirms that true wisdom comes from God alone and that it is only by learning the Wisdom of God, and then learning to *love* the Wisdom of God, that we can come to true knowledge and right reasoning:

Happy are those who meditate on wisdom and who reason intelligently, who reflect in their hearts on her ways and ponder her secrets, pursuing her like a hunter and lying in wait on her paths; who peer through her windows and listen at her doors; who camp near her house and fasten their tent pegs to her walls; who pitch their tents near her and so occupy an excellent lodging place; who place their children under her shelter and lodge under her boughs; who are sheltered by her from the heat and dwell in the midst of her glory.

Whoever fears the Lord will do this, and whoever holds to the law will obtain wisdom. They will come to meet him like a mother, and like a young bride she will welcome him. She will feed him with the bread of understanding and give him the water of wisdom to drink. He will lean on her and not fall, and he will rely on her and not be put to shame. She will exalt him above his neighbors and will open his mouth in the midst of the assembly. Gladness and a crown of rejoicing and an everlasting name he will inherit. The foolish will not obtain her, and sinners will not see her. She is far from arrogance, and liars will never think of her. Praise is unseemly on the lips of a sinner, for it has not been sent from the Lord. For in wisdom must praise be uttered, and the Lord will make it prosper (Book of Sirach: 14: 20-15: 10)

We notice that *happiness* is the main reward for embracing and living God’s Moral Law. By living and loving the Moral Law, we gain an interior happiness that no one in this world can take away from us, and we stay on the path of reaching the fullness of happiness in Heaven.

How beautiful! God Our Father and His Son and Our Savior, Jesus Christ, want us to be happy! As the secular world of today, as the pagan Greek world of yesteryears, tries to impose its mixed-up culture and neo-pagan ideas on us, let us continue to embrace the Commandments and Beatitudes in the fullest, so that we can continue to grow in Divine Wisdom and the happiness that comes with it. Let us also continue to teach and preach the Commandments and the Beatitudes in their fullness, so that others can come to experience the happiness that comes with embracing Divine Wisdom.

Oh, Mary, Seat of Wisdom, pray for us!

Fr. Michael J. Pawelko, Pastor



THREE LESSONS FROM LOURDES

Today, Saturday, we celebrate the Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes and also the World Day of the Sick. As Fr. Paul Scalia alludes to, this a perfect day to make an extra effort to reach out to someone who has been sick and suffering. By doing so, we can become instruments of God's healing touch for them. He also uses this day to remind us of the power of redemptive suffering.

Fr. Paul D. Scalia

Saturday ~ February 11, 2017

<https://www.thecatholicthing.org/2017/02/11/three-lessons-from-lourdes/>

“Drink from the spring and wash in it,” said the beautiful Lady. At her command Bernadette Soubirous, the little shepherdess of Lourdes, looked around for a spring. There wasn't one. So she scratched at the loose gravel. Then from the murky water that appeared she first drank and then washed her face. She must have looked ridiculous. But in the following days the puddle became running water and then a stream. Since that day in 1858 countless pilgrims have bathed in and been healed by the waters of that spring. These waters and their healing power (sixty-nine documented miracles) are some of the most immediate and enduring fruits of our Lady's appearance at Lourdes.

So it is somewhat ironic that we observe the World Day of the Sick today, on the feast of Our Lady of Lourdes. After all, her apparitions are more renowned for healing than sickness! Likewise, there is an irony in the fact that Bernadette herself never benefitted from the healing waters she had uncovered. Always a sickly child, she was prevented from entering the Carmelites because of her weakness. Becoming a Sister of Charity instead, she died of tuberculosis at the young age of thirty-five. Nevertheless, the observation of the World Day of the Sick is well placed. Our Lady of Lourdes teaches – and Bernadette understood clearly – three lessons for the sick: presence, healing, and sacrifice.

First, presence. The first thing to note about our Lady's appearance at Lourdes is that she appeared. She was present to that ignorant, poor shepherd girl who considered herself so unworthy of the visitor that she dared not call her Mary but always “the beautiful lady.” In the first apparition, nothing was said. Just Mary's presence – a loving smile, an approving look. Likewise in other apparitions, either little or nothing was said. Presence was enough. Our Lady's appearance in Lourdes is in the pattern of her Son's public ministry. The solicitude she shows by her presence reflects that of her Son. He always gravitated towards the suffering – the blind, the lame, the sick, and so on.

The sick suffer not only physically but also emotionally, in the thought that they have been forgotten, become useless or, worse, a burden. We all like visitors when we are sick. We welcome that reminder that we are not alone, forgotten, or a burden. Likewise, we visit the sick – yes, to do good things for them, as we are able – but also to assure them of our love by our presence. His simple presence gave expression of that divine solicitude and care. Our Lady's visit reminds us of that – and that we need to extend it.

Second, healing. In Lourdes's miraculous spring, our Lady reminds us of her Son's healing power. Saint Luke wrote of Him: "Everyone in the crowd sought to touch him because power came forth from him and healed them all." (Lk 6:19) That healing power continues to break into the world. Not every instance of healing is cataloged as a miracle or announced to the world. But every one of us can point to some recovery or healing that requires more than man's medicine to explain. Jesus continues to work little miracles of healing still. And He does so for the same reason as back then: not to entertain, not merely to astound, but to show that the kingdom of God has come upon the world.

Third, sacrifice. Our Lord did not heal everyone. Not everyone who prays for healing receives it. Not every visitor to Lourdes departs cured. This brings us to what are in many ways our Lord's greater gift and more profound miracle: the ability to suffer with Him – that is, to sacrifice.

Suffering is not optional in a fallen world. In our fallen human nature, the body tends inevitably toward death and the sufferings that announce it. Everyone suffers. How we respond to our suffering makes all the difference. We can and should use the natural, medical means at our disposal to bring about some cure and relieve our suffering. But we know that those are limited and cannot grant perfect or permanent relief.

Everyone suffers. But not everyone sacrifices. Suffering is the simple experience of physical illness, injury, disease, and so on. We all encounter that. Sacrifice, on the other hand, is the offering of this suffering in union with Christ. Saint Paul was the first to articulate this theology of suffering: "Now I rejoice in my sufferings for your sake, and in my flesh I am filling up what is lacking in the afflictions of Christ on behalf of his body, which is the church." (Col 1:24)

What has come to be called "redemptive suffering" begins with the awareness that Christ suffered first and most of all, that all our suffering must be seen in light of His. Then we recall that He is present to us in our suffering such that He shares our suffering and we share His. He is not a mere observer but has drawn close, taken our suffering upon Himself, and remains with us in the midst of it. Finally, our suffering becomes a sacrifice when, conscious of this union with Him, we offer it to Him.

As Saint Paul told the Colossians that he offered his sufferings "for your sake," so also we should offer ours for specific intentions. As He hung upon the Cross, enduring the extreme of suffering, our Lord saw each and every one of us. . . every struggle. . . every wound. . . every hurt. . . every need. . . and He offered His sufferings for us. Attaching to our offering a particular person, group, or situation helps to give meaning to our suffering and to unite it more perfectly to His. When we do so our suffering ceases to be merely that and becomes through, with, and in Christ an offering to the Father.

About the Author



FR. PAUL D. SCALIA

Fr. Paul Scalia is a priest of the Diocese of Arlington, VA, where he serves as Episcopal Vicar for Clergy and Pastor of Saint James in Falls Church. He is the author of *That Nothing May Be Lost: Reflections on Catholic Doctrine and Devotion* and the editor of *Sermons in Times of Crisis: Twelve Homilies to Stir Your Soul*.

Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Church INVITES YOU

*"I have come to believe that You are the Christ, the
Son of the Living God."*

PARISH LENTEN DAY OF REFLECTION

SATURDAY ~ FEBRUARY 25, 2023

Cafeteria & Gym

10:30 AM - 2:00 PM | cost: FREE

Schedule for the day

- 10:30 AM Welcome
- 11:00 AM Reflections by Msgr. Francis W. Beach
- 12:00 PM Break & Lunch
- 1:00 PM Holy Hour (Church)
Reflections by Msgr. Francis W. Beach (Church)
Lenten Confessions (Church)

ONLINE REGISTRATION:

(Deadline to Register ~ Feb. 17th)

<https://forms.gle/ZeTNKUtYTNVknAF8>



RETREAT MASTER:
Msgr. Francis W. Beach

Msgr. Beach is well known to us as the long-time pastor and now pastor emeritus of our neighboring parish, St. Jude in Chalfont. He has had a wide variety of assignments throughout his 47 years of priesthood. In 2011, he was appointed the Archbishop's Delegate for the Office of Stewardship and Development and was a founding member of the Catholic Foundation of Greater Philadelphia. In 2015, he was appointed the pastor of St. Jude Parish while remaining on the Board of Trustees for the CFGP. All of these priestly assignments have allowed him to use his many skills and talents, as well as his dedication to serve God's people, for the benefit of our archdiocese. We are happy Msgr. Beach is able to lead us on this year's Lenten Day of Reflection.



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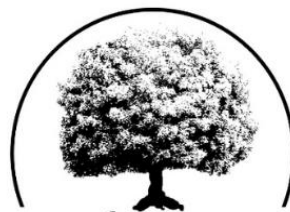
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See you there!



Knights of Columbus Council #9736

PRESENTS

NIGHT at the RACES

SATURDAY ~ FEBRUARY 18, 2023

FATHER MCBRIDE HALL (GYMNASIUM)

100 BROAD STREET • HILLTOWN, PA 18927



**Doors Open:
5:30 PM**

**Featuring
Mike
Chet
Beck**

**at the
Guitar**

Tickets:

\$30.00 per person

OR \$35.00 at the Door

Buffet Dinner & Dancing
Beer included and BYOB

All participants must be
21 or older to attend

All Proceeds Benefit
Charitable Causes in
our Parish
Enjoy an evening of
horse racing
and camaraderie....

WIN

CASH PRIZES!!

For tickets, Email michael.goodwin57@gmail.com

OR

Purchasing tickets online, your tickets will be held at the door.

<https://forms.parishgiving.org/form-5201106/>



COME JOIN US FOR

COFFEE *and* DONUTS



SUNDAY
FEBRUARY

19

8AM - 1PM

Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Cafe
100 Broad Street • Hilltown



Sponsored by Welcoming Committee

ASH WEDNESDAY

Schedule

22 | **FEB.**
2023

Mass with distribution of Ashes

6:30 AM | 9:00 AM | 7:00 PM

Liturgy of the Word Service with distribution of Ashes

11:30 AM | 4:30 PM

All Liturgies will be in the Church

2023

40 DAYS OF LENT

FRIDAYS

**Stations of the Cross w/Benediction
February 24 - March 31
in the Church**

**25
FEB**

**Parish Lenten Day of Reflection
10:30 AM - 2:00 PM
in the Cafeteria & Gym**

**11 & 12
MAR**

**Miraculous Medal Devotions
At All Masses ~ Fr. Michael Shea
in the Church**

**24
MAR**

**KofC Lenten Fish Fry
4:30 PM - 6:30 PM
in the Cafeteria**

**25
MAR**

**Women's Morning of Reflection
9:00 AM - 10:30 AM
in the Church**

**26-28
MAR**

**Parish Mission with Fr. Leary
7:00 PM
in the Church**

**30
MAR**

**Parish Confessions
4:00 PM - 5:00 PM and 7:00 PM
in the Church**



MIRACULOUS MEDAL WEEKEND



"O Mary, conceived without sin,
have mercy on us who have recourse to you"

MARCH

11TH & 12TH



We are so blessed to have Fr. Michael Shea, CM, with us the weekend of March 11-12. Fr. Shea will be preaching at all Masses on the Miraculous Medal Devotion and will be offering enrollments in the Miraculous Medal after all Masses.



Rev. Michael J. Shea, C.M. was born in Brooklyn, New York as the youngest of six children. After graduation from high school, he entered the Vincentian minor seminary in Princeton, New Jersey. He was ordained a priest in 1970 and for the next 13 years he taught in a number of high schools in Philadelphia. From 1983 to 1993 Father Shea divided his time between Niagara University, NY and Auburn Univ., AL. In 1993 he was assigned to St. Lazare Retreat House in Spring Lake, MI and served there until being assigned as the Associate Director to the Central Association of the Miraculous Medal. Fr. Shea is a 2005 Life Achievement Award recipient of the Right to Life of Michigan. He is much in demand as a retreat master and leader of parish missions and novenas.



WOMEN'S MORNING OF REFLECTION

by Fr. Dan Leary

Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Church

Saturday

March 25

9:00 - 10:30 AM

Adoration and Two Talks
Reflecting on Our Blessed Mother





Jesus Christ

An Encounter
With Love

March 26 ~ 28, 2023

Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Church
100 Broad Street • Hilltown, PA 18927



Sunday

Baptism:
Our identity of Christ

7:00 PM Mission Talk



Monday

Eucharist:
An encounter with His heart

7:30 AM Morning Mass
7:00 PM Mission Talk



Tuesday

Forgiveness:
Our Father's Gift of Healing

7:30 AM Morning Mass
7:00 PM Mission Talk



Father Dan Leary is a priest in the Archdiocese of Washington, DC and was ordained in 1997. He was pastor of several parishes in the Maryland/DC area before being granted approval to become a missionary priest and chaplain to the Sisters of Mary serving poor children around the world.

In July 2020, Father Dan Leary left 23 years as an archdiocesan priest to be a missionary chaplain to the Sisters of Mary. As chaplain, Father Dan is a spiritual director and father for 400+ Sisters of Mary and 20,000 children in their care. He offers daily Masses, confession, adoration, healing prayers, retreats, rosary processions, and more for the Sisters and children. Together, Fr. Dan and the Sisters of Mary are saving lives and souls and helping to heal the scars of poverty.