

**THE LIGHT OF CHRIST ENTERING OUR  
RENOVATED HALL!**

Last Saturday morning (February 2nd), we were honored by the visit of Bishop Fisher as we celebrated **Candle-mass**, the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord in the Temple, exactly 40 days after His Nativity (Christmas). It was a triple celebration as we chose this great Feast to have the blessing of the renovated Social Hall, and it also happened to be a First Saturday (Devotion to our Lady of Fatima) this year.

Bishop Fisher had asked me how many people we could expect to attend. My response was: from 50 to 100, depending upon the weather. Snow began to fall on the day before our celebration and the wind chill temperature fell to the teens... The snow on some of the roads had turned to ice. However, God had a different plan: people turned in large numbers! **a total of 300**, which made **our largest-ever attendance at a Saturday morning Mass!** Mary must have been smiling upon us from Heaven. The First Saturday devotion began 8 years ago, shortly after we introduced a weekly Saturday morning Mass, and the number of participants had so far varied from a low of 20 to a high of 100.

Many of you have let me know how much they appreciated Bishop Fisher's homily. For the sake of the 1,000 parishioners that could not make it last Saturday, I will try to summarize the main points and provide some quotes. Bishop Fisher first referred to the irony of **Groundhog Day** and **Candlemas** always being on the same day, therefore a day of both light and shadow. Both **light** and **shadow** are a reality of any day of our lives.... Even when we choose the shadowy places they are always uncomfortable. That discomfort is the light shining in the darkness...No matter how large the shadows or how dark the night the light is still present. This was symbolized by our candlelit procession through the renovated Hall and then through entering the church before Mass began. That lit candle we carried was the reminder that **"Christ, a light for revelation, is with us"**. When we extinguished our candles, the light did not go away. It is within us and always will be. But like Simeon who met Jesus in the temple, we must see with eyes of Faith...The light of God's love consumes the darkness, fills us, and frees us to go in peace just as God promised.

In closing his homily, Bishop Fisher said: " Today, we also celebrate Father Narcisse Martin a wonderful priest

and shepherd for the Lord...who led many people of the Waldorf area to Christ" (for a total of 29 years over 100 years ago, baptizing 2,375 people at a time when Waldorf had a small population) ... Fr. Martin is an example for all of us and a reminder that the work must continue. **We are the true candles that were blessed today. We are the lights in the world of shadows that needs to see Christ's love more than ever.** Congratulations on your renovated hall (now named Father Martin Hall) and **may Christ always be present among you** guiding the good work of your pastor and parish family."

Bishop Fisher also expressed his appreciation for the warm welcome our parish gave him. He enjoyed the three hours of celebration he spent with us. In blessing our renovated Father Martin Hall, Bishop Fisher not only blessed 300 of us present last Saturday morning, but he also **blessed all the people who will come to our Hall in the future.**

I would like to take this opportunity to thank God for all the volunteers that made this wonderful celebration a reality and list some of the key groups that helped: Parish Council, Marian Group, Altar Servers, Music Ministry, Altar Guild, Knights of Columbus, Couples for Christ, Building Committee, Hispanic Ministry, Lectors, Father Martin Society, last and not least the Project Committee which on my behalf led the preparation and implementation/supervision of the Hall Renovation Project.

May the Holy Spirit continue to guide the on-going **spiritual renewal** of our parish and of each of us. May our future use of the Father Martin Hall be an integral part of our spiritual renewal programs, including the six-week **GIFT OF THE MASS** beginning Thursday March 7th and Saturday March 9 and ending just before Palm Sunday. May the Light of Christ shine in our parish and in our hearts! May each of us share that Light of Christ within the Waldorf area and beyond! May the Holy Spirit help us to see Christ in everyone we encounter, especially those most in need!



*One in Christ,  
Father Alain*

## Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

### Religious Education

#### Important Dates:

**Feb. 10/11 CCD Classes**

**Feb. 17/18- CCD Classes**

**Feb. 24/25-YOUTH MASS and ALL YOUTH NIGHT** activities (Fiat,/Edge/Life teen)

**March 3/4 CCD Classes**

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**\*Attention Sacramental Preparation Families (CCD and Catholic**

**School Families):** Workshop dates for First Reconciliation/Communion (10 am) and Confirmation Year 1 and 2 (2:30pm): Jan 27, Feb 24, Mar 24, & Apr 28.

Questions? Please contact Therese Thiedeman, DRE



**FIAT: Children in Elementary**

**EDGE: Middle School Youth**

**Life Teen: High School Youth**

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For most current Youth and Evangelization events,  
please see our website: [www.olhoc.org](http://www.olhoc.org)

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### ***Join Catholics in Annapolis***

***on February 21!***

It's a new year and that means the Maryland State legislature is back in session and considering many important bills that impact all of us.

Join Catholics from across Maryland at Catholics in Annapolis on Thursday, February 21 to stand up for life, justice and human rights. Catholics in Annapolis is your chance to get inspired and meet face-to-face with your legislators to share with them the Church's position on important issues.

Your help is needed this year to stop a proposed pro-abortion constitutional amendment, to help secure scholarships for low-income students, to stop the legalization of assisted suicide, and to protect human rights. We need your voice in 2019!

The afternoon will begin by praying the Rosary for our elected officials, led by Maryland's bishops. After that, you will hear from inspiring speakers on several key issues before heading into your legislators' offices to meet face-to-face and share the Church's position. The evening will end with a reception with beer, wine, and food from Light House Bistro Catering - a social enterprise of the Light House Homeless Prevent Support Center, an Annapolis nonprofit that provides shelter, employment and opportunities to individuals experiencing homelessness.

Catholics in Annapolis is free, but registration is required. Visit [www.catholicsinannapolis.org](http://www.catholicsinannapolis.org) to register. Or call the Maryland Catholic Conference at 410-269-1155 for more information.

### OUR LADY'S LITTLE CHRISTIANS



Preschool openings (3 and 4 year olds) at OLHOC! Full and half-day programs. We include children's chapel services and many opportunities for family involvement!

For more information send an email to [preschool@olhoc.org](mailto:preschool@olhoc.org) or call the office and ask for Nieda, Preschool

Director.

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### OLHOC Community Outreach

Our next Shepherd's Table will be held on February 21, 2019 at Good Shepherd Church on Smallwood.

The next Outreach Committee meeting will be at 7p.m. On March 6, 2019. All new members and ideas are welcome!

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#### Friday Faith &

#### Fellowship Group

*Join the group every 2nd Friday of the month for*

*Movie Night (watch for update)*

*and for bible study and music each 3rd, 4th, and occasional 5th Friday. 7:00 PM*

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### **Angel's Watch Assistance**

Angel's Watch Shelter in Waldorf is in need of assistance of food donations for meals. We are in need of meats, produce, and non-perishable items (such as rice, beans, canned goods, etc.) to assist with meals. We are also looking for someone with experience and who might be interested in cooking for a large group on a continued basis. If you have any questions please contact Kathy Clark at (301) 274-0680, or email her at [Kathy.Clark@CatholicCharitiesDC.org](mailto:Kathy.Clark@CatholicCharitiesDC.org).

### Prayer Requests

We are asked to pray for: Pat Fisher, Christ Goldhammer, Melody Hudson, Ernest Mack, James Wiltz, Adele Alvey, Dorothy Neal, Dunny Proctor, K.D. Dillard, Josephina Knapp, Maria Townsend, Crystal Beauregard, Sheryl Carter, Alex Leon, Sharketer Butler, and all our military and civilians serving in harm's way.

*Please notify the office if any names should be added or deleted from this list. After three months, names will be removed unless notified.*



### Mass Intentions this Week

Sunday, February 10, 8:30 AM: Our Lady Help of Christians Parishioners  
Sunday, February 10, 10:00 AM: Karl Lass (+)  
Sunday, February 10, 11:30 AM: Marian Group Members  
Sunday, February 10, 1:00 AM: Altar Servers  
Sunday, February 10, 7:00 PM: Philip Michelitch (+)  
Monday, February 11, 9:00 AM: Father Narcisse Martin (+)  
Tuesday, February 12, 9:00 AM: Eucharistic Ministers  
Wednesday, February 13, 9:00 AM: OLHOC Ushers  
Wednesday, February 13, 7:00 PM: Married Couples  
Thursday, February 14, 9:00 AM: Peter Nikolai (+)  
Friday, February 15, 9:00 AM: Abigail Strawberry  
Saturday, February 16, 9:00 AM: Soul of Segundina Padinit (+),  
Luke Darcera (L)  
Saturday, February 16, 5:00 PM: Susanna Lagman

### **“The Gift of the Mass”**

**Join us beginning Thursday March 14, or Saturday March 16 for six weeks.  
Learn more about the Mass during this season of Lent.**

#### *A Valentine Prayer*

I said a Valentine prayer for you  
and asked the Lord above  
to fill your heart and bless your soul  
With the precious gift of love.

I asked Him for sincere love  
The kind that's meant to stay  
Just like the generous love  
You give to those you touch each day.

I prayed for love from family  
And from every cherished friend  
Then I asked the Lord to give you  
His love that knows no end.

*Catholic Online*

#### Mass Readings for February 17 2019

*Third Sunday in Ordinary Time*

\*First Reading

**Jeremiah 17:5-8 (78C)**

\*Second Reading

**1 Corinthians 15:12, 16-20**

\*Gospel

**Luke 6:17, 20-26**

[www.usccb.org](http://www.usccb.org)





## Youth Worship

### Upcoming Youth Events:

#### Quo Vadis Shadow Day

On Friday, February 15, 2019, juniors and seniors in high school are invited to join the seminarians of the Archdiocese of Washington for a special Quo Vadis "Shadow Day" at Saint John Paul II Seminary and the Catholic University of America. You will be able to experience a "day in the life" of a seminarian by joining them for Mass, Adoration, meals, class, sports and just hanging out. This day is a great opportunity to come and see what a day in the life of a seminarian is like. For more information visit [www.olhoc.org/ymevents](http://www.olhoc.org/ymevents)

#### ADW High School Rally & (Confirmation Year 2 Retreat)

Join us on Saturday, March 2nd for the High School Rally at Catholic University of America. The day will be packed with inspirational talks on how to live our Catholic faith in the world today including a special session for those preparing for Confirmation in the spring. Adoration, praise and worship music, fun and games will also be a part of the day. Attention Confirmation Year 2 Students, this is your required retreat for Confirmation. Please visit the website for more details and to register.

Don't miss out on the many wonderful opportunities we have for our youth of all ages. We have spots available for the Steubenville Youth Conference, Camp Covecrest in Georgia, and many more upcoming events. Please visit [www.olhoc.org/ym](http://www.olhoc.org/ym) or contact Marlen [marlen@olhoc.org](mailto:marlen@olhoc.org)



[www.FaithDirect.net](http://www.FaithDirect.net)

Faith Direct provides our parishioners with the ability to give electronically. To simplify your Sunday mornings, visit Faith Direct and consider enrolling using our **parish code: MD614**. Applications can also be found in the narthex. Thank you for your kind donations

and to all those already enrolled in this cost effective measure for our church.

### ***Assistance for those effected by the Government shutdown***

For OLHOC parishioners affected by the Government Shutdown, support and assistance is available. Contact Larry Sutton via email at:

[olhocgovshutdown@gmail.com](mailto:olhocgovshutdown@gmail.com).

### **Preschool Announcement**

OLLC Preschool fall 2019 registration is open! Parishioners, please share this information with families you know who may be looking for Catholic Preschool for their child or grandchild, and be sure you have registered your child for fall. For info or to register: email the preschool director, Nieda, at [preschool@olhoc.org](mailto:preschool@olhoc.org) or call the church/preschool office at 301-645-7112 during office hours.

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### **Scripture Study**

Join us on Tuesdays after the 9 am Mass. Each week we go over the readings for the upcoming Sunday. The first Tuesday of the month the scripture study is held at Morning-side Assisted Living (next door to the church), other Tuesdays in the Narthex. Please join us if you are available.