

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

Dear Parishioners,

The Healing Prayer Ministry we have recently initiated here in our parish is, by the mercy of God, already bearing fruit. Below is the personal testimony of a parishioner who has received the Lord's healing through prayer. Last weekend about 45 people came forward to receive prayer after our Masses. We are confident that as we continue to ask the Lord to bless us with His healing, others will continue to be healed. If you experience a healing or an improvement in your condition after receiving prayer, please share your testimony with others and let me know as well. Testimonies, like the beautiful one below, give glory to God, and build faith in others and give them the courage to come forward and ask for the Lord's healing. Many thanks to Ms. Bucklew for allowing us to share her story.

With my prayers,
Father Conley

God Knows My Heart by Denean Bucklew

For five years I was misdiagnosed for Lyme's disease. In 2013 after a correct diagnosis, I began a regimen of neurological doses of antibiotics because the disease had reached my heart and my brain. The medications themselves had their own set of side effects that I continue to suffer from today. The pain, the fatigue, and widespread secondary issues from the disease, including food allergies and sensitivities, significant weight gain, a heart murmur, vision problems, sleep issues, weakened immune system, the pain, did I mention the pain, were at times simply unbearable. With treatment I have come so far that I wouldn't dare complain about how I feel. I was truly blessed when God led me to one Doctor who saved my life.

I was talking to one of my girls' teachers at St. Mary's Bryantown one day a few months ago when I was having some trouble. She told me that I really should consider coming to the next healing seminar that the parish was having. I said I couldn't possibly, I feel so grateful for the healing I have received already, I feel that they are so many people out there that have it so much worse than I do. Is this not my cross to bear? She said that many people feel that way but strongly suggested I give it a chance. So, when Father Conley announced the day I signed up.

I was not comfortable going, I was nervous, I didn't know what to expect. I still felt like I really didn't have any business complaining. Many times, I considered leaving, despite the fact that the information was very informative, refreshing, and enlightening. Another dear friend from the school and church kept an eye on me. It seemed that every time I considered leaving, she instinctually checked on me to make sure I was okay.

When it came to the end of the retreat and folks were lining up to participate in the healing prayer sessions offered in groups, I was overwhelmed with fear and again the sense of unworthiness. I walked over to the church and waited for Mass. During Mass, Father Conley indicated that, much to my surprise, they would also be doing the healing prayer sessions after church. I suddenly felt fearless, worthy, still a little nervous because I still didn't know what to expect or what to do, but I felt like I just had to do it now. I went to one of the prayer groups, who asked me what I was praying for. I said for the pain from the Lyme disease I've suffered, from emotional scarring and healing from several abusive situations I have encountered. They touched me, they held my hand, and we prayed.

I went home that evening, business as usual. When I woke up the next morning, I thought, wow, did I just sleep through the night? I got out of bed and as I walked into the kitchen I suddenly felt taller and I was free of so much pain that had held me for 21 years. That pain was NOT the Lyme disease. Since 1997 I have suffered extreme pain in my back, which grew over time. I have multiple herniated discs in my low back and in my neck, with arthritis and bone spurs. I have been through countless injections in my spine, physical therapy, multiple Chiropractors, Yoga, Pilates, I tried everything except acupuncture. The pain from my spine was always there. Anything from the Lyme was just above and beyond this part of me that I learned to deal with. I never wanted to have surgery despite being told by many doctors that was my only option. Over just the past month I gave in and surrendered to God. On my knees every night, desperate to sleep, desperate to just live without this pain, I begged Him to please help me. I said, Lord I know you can do anything, and I ask you to please either take my pain, guide me to surgery, give me a new spine, something, or if it is Your Will help me live with it because I feel like I just can't take it anymore. Only God knew my heart. I didn't even mention my back or my neck during the healing prayer session.

For the first time in nearly half of my life I feel like a new person. God truly touched me through these people and gave me an amazing gift. One of the prayer group members told me the next day, who I just happened to run into at an event outside of church that very next afternoon, to keep praying- things will only get better. Every day I feel better, I feel free, I feel those other things I prayed for are even starting to lift. I am on my knees every day thanking the good Lord for this gift, and praying that He may touch others as He has me. I honestly feel like He gave me that new spine I asked Him for.

God knows my heart. He led me to the right people, the right places in time. He knew what I needed most, and I am forever blessed and grateful. I am His child and He does think I'm worthy. Amen.

RETIRED PRIESTS COLLECTION

The second collection next weekend is for the Retired Priests of the Archdiocese of Washington, who have selflessly served the faithful and the community to continue Christ's mission for decades. Please use the envelopes that have been mailed to your homes from the Archdiocese and/or the special collection envelopes that will be placed in the pews for the weekend of November 3 and 4.

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**Thursday is All Saints Day
and a Holy Day of Obligation
Masses will be offered here
at 8:00am, 9:30am and at 7:30pm**

**NOVEMBER IS THE MONTH
OF ALL SAINTS & ALL SOULS**

Throughout the month daily Masses will be offered for the Souls in Purgatory. Envelopes for Mass offerings for All Souls are to be found in your envelope packets or in the vestibule of the church. Also, you are invited to inscribe the names of your loved ones who have passed on in the Remembrance Book on the stand by the Cry Room. This book will remain out during the month to remind us of the spiritual work of mercy "to pray for the dead."

**COME, LET US ADORE HIM
CHRIST THE LORD!**

This Friday, besides being All Souls Day, is the **FIRST FRIDAY** of the Month. In addition to our Mass at 9:30am, we will have a holy hour from 7 to 8pm. The holy hour will include exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Benediction. Come and pray in the presence of the Lord in honor of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. The sign up is in the foyer.

FALL DINNERFEST

Next Sunday, November 4th, we will have our Annual Parish Dinnerfest from 12:00pm -5:00 pm. Menu: Fried Oysters, Steamed Shrimp, Fried Chicken, Ham and all the fixings. Adults and All Carry-outs \$28, (Children 6-11 will be \$10 (Children 5 and under are free). All you can eat buffet style. Country Store, Raffles, Silent Auction, Bake Table and more.

ENCOUNTER GRACE Ladies ages 21+: Join the Encounter Grace team (Mrs. Penny Bailey and Mrs. Laura Roland), a new Catholic women's ministry organization in Southern Maryland, for a faith-filled fun evening on Friday, November 9, 2018 from 6 pm - 9 pm at the Waldorf Jaycee Hall. For more information Encounter Grace team at encountergraceco@gmail.com. Thank you in advance for your support.

ST. MARY'S SCHOOL \$60,000 RAFFLE You may purchase a ticket on your own for \$100 or consider purchasing a ticket with your friends, family or co-workers. Split the ticket cost and the winnings. There are 20 opportunities to win cash prizes adding up to \$60,000. Your ticket enters you in all 20 drawings. **The winner of the first drawing for \$1,000.00 was David Hodges, school parent at St. Mary's. Our second drawing for \$1,000 will be held on Sunday, November 4th at the Fall Dinnerfest.** The Grand Prize Drawing of \$20,000 will be held on March 1, 2019.

**MASS FOR THE FAMILIES OF DECEASED
CHILDREN ON SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 17
at 9AM.**

We will be offering this Mass for parents and families who have experienced the passing of a child through a miscarriage or the passing of a child before they reached adulthood. Families will be invited to light a vigil candle in memory of the child they are mourning. They will also be invited to place the child's name and photograph with the candle. If you would like to participate and have your child remembered at this Mass, please contact Father Conley so that we can be sure to have a candle for your child. 301 – 870 – 2220 ext. 13 or frconley@comcast.net

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THIS WEEK:

SUN: 8am Glenn Sosbe, 10am Parishioners,
12N: Virginia Merz, **MON:** 8am Jane E. Swann,
TUES: 8am Edna Wills, **WED:** 8am Maurice Long, Sr.,
THURS: 8am Jessica Chlysta, **FRI:** 9:30am Joseph F. Weingarden, III, **SAT:** 9am Kathleen Conway, 4pm Anne Marie Klopfer.

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR DAILY

PRAYERS: Stephen Balenger, Mary Bowes, Brenda Callahan, Joe Cross, Agnes Curtis, Chuck Davis, Susan Welch Day, Kendall Farrell, Keith Van Gadson, Arlene Gandolfi, Martha Gehring, James Gibson, Zynae Green, Judy Istvan-Windsor, Irma Johnson, Regina Kijesky, Marie Knobel, Lillian Komar, Susie Logan, Larry Miller, Joseph Mona, Wayne Mullings, Ryan Myers, Mary Reeves, Sylvene Savoy, William Leon Savoy, Edna Sweeney, Jean Turner, Eva Washington, Beth Weise, Pat Werner, Brice Zimmer.

OFFERTORY COLLECTION LAST WEEKEND:

\$9,858.28. The unidentified donations totaled \$626.28. We received \$25.00 for our School Support.