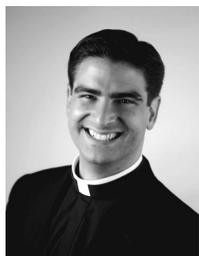


MARCH 19 & 20, 2022



Dear Friends in Christ,

The readings today remind us that yes, our God is a God of second chances. But God's gracious offer is not imposed but proposed. It requires a response from us.

In the first reading, we find Moses in exile in the wilderness. He fled Egypt because he killed one of Pharaoh's overseers. God comes to him in the burning bush, with a plan *to rescue [his people] from the hands of the Egyptians and lead them out of that land into a good and spacious land*. This plan includes sending Moses to them, and while Moses has questions and doubts, we know he chose to answer God's commission and return to the land he had fled.

The Gospel begins with an account of a tragic accident. Jesus reminds his hearer of the need to repent, for we do not know when death might come.

The Good News of the Gospel is that we are not merely saved *from* something – sin and eternal separation from God – but *for* something, eternal life in heaven and a fruitful life with God now. In today's passage, Jesus uses the story of the fig tree to explain this truth.

In the parable, we heard the story of the owner who directs his gardener to cut down the barren fig tree. The gardener proposes that he not only allow this tree, barren for three years, to live, but also that he tend and feed it, investing even more resources into this tree that has yet to produce fruit. If, after this care and attention, it bears no fruit, he will cut it down.

Jesus' parables often have surprising endings and this one does not disappoint. Why would you waste space, effort, and fertilizer on a tree that has not borne fruit in three years? Why not cut it down and start all over with a new tree?

On a human level, that is the course of action that makes the most sense. But not for God. God loves us enough to invite us, again and again, to life with him, to participate in his work of building the kingdom. Neither Moses nor the fig tree were to be thrown away, but are offered a second chance at life, at freedom, at salvation.

God does not throw us away, either. Ever. He always loves us, calls to us, desires for us to grow in love and freedom in Christ, and to be with him in eternity. Let us ask the Lord to help us hear his invitation and to

respond with our yes.

Yours in Christ Jesus,
Fr. Marco

Events Calendar	March 21 — March 27
Tues: 7:00 pm	Evening Bible Study
Fri: 4-7 pm	Lenten Seafood Dinner
5:30 pm	Youth Group at St. Cecilia's
7:00 pm	Stations of the Cross
8:00 pm	Stations of the Cross, Spanish
Sat: 7:00 am	IHM Men's Group

IHM LENTEN DAY OF REFLECTION In the season of Lent, the worldwide Church makes a 40-day spiritual retreat together, right in the middle of our daily lives. Do you want to go deeper in this renewal? You are invited to a Lenten Day of Reflection here at IHM, on Saturday, March 26, beginning with the 9 a.m. Mass and concluding at 2 p.m. Father Dan will give several talks as we spend time "With Christ in the Desert." (In a separate room, Deacon Juan will give several talks in Spanish.) The day will include Eucharistic Adoration and opportunities for confession, conversation, and silent reflection, as well as a free light breakfast and lunch (donations welcome). To help us plan the right amount of food, please RSVP by emailing julian@ihmrcc.org by Monday, March 21. (If you would like to help with food, please call or text Janet Harmon at 301-904-4760.)

LENTEN SEAFOOD DINNER IHM is hosting our Seafood Dinner once again! The menu includes rockfish, shrimp, and oysters. Prices range between \$15 and \$25. Kids meals will be available. We will have dine in and take out, as well as online ordering and payment available at seafood.ihmrcc.org.

IHM MEN'S GROUP Join us every Saturday morning, 7-8:30AM in the Large Classroom for Fellowship and Spiritual Growth. Each week we preview the scripture readings for the coming weekend and then watch and discuss a video. Currently we are viewing Bishop Robert Barron's "Catholicism" Series. Upcoming episodes include, "Word Made Flesh, True Bread from Heaven", "A vast Company of Witnesses", and "The Fire of His Love". For more information contact Mark Baysinger (240-925-2677 or nbay9@hotmail.com).

THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT



March 21 — March 27

Monday 2 Kgs 5:1-15ab/Ps 42:2, 3; 43:3, 4/
Lk 4:24-30
9:00 am **Marlene Duperval (D)**

Tuesday Dn 3:25, 34-43/Ps 25:4-5ab, 6 and 7bc, 8-9/
Mt 18:21-35
5:30 pm **James E. Baker Jr. (L)**

Wednesday Dt 4:1, 5-9/147:12-13, 15-16, 19-20/
Mt 5:17-19
9:00 am **Katy Kleming (S)**

Thursday Jer 7:23-28/Ps 95:1-2, 6-7, 8-9/
Lk 11:14-23
5:30 pm **Terry Thompson, Jr. (L)**

Friday Is 7:10-14; 8:10/Ps 40:7-8a, 8b-9, 10, 11/
Heb 10:4-10/Lk 1:26-38
9:00 am **Rev. Zygmunt Kurzawinski (L)**

Saturday Hos 6:1-6/Ps 51:3-4, 18-19, 20-21ab/
Lk 18:9-14
9:00 am **Catherine Gibson (S)**
4:00 pm **Joseph Ghio Jr. (D)**

Sunday Jos 5:9a, 10-12/Ps 34:2-3, 4-5, 6-7/
2 Cor 5:17-21/Lk 15:1-3, 11-32
8:30 am **Rizalina Torres Fortaleza (D)**
11:15 am **Adoracion Cayan (D)**
1:00 pm **All IHM Parishioners**

TREASURE STEWARDSHIP

FY July 2021– June 2022	Offertory	Maintenance Fund
Offertory	\$23,455.95	\$3,229.00
Online Giving	\$17,707.00	\$1,935.00
Needed Monthly	\$52,878.33	\$5,203.00
Collected YTD	\$367,753.29	\$41,781.57
Needed YTD	\$423,026.64	\$41,624.00
CAPITAL CAMPAIGN		
Campaign runs October 2019– October 2022	Total Pledged	Given through February 28
	\$684,557.00	\$589,386.18

*Thank you for faithfully sharing a portion of the gifts
God has given to you!*

MINISTRY HIGHLIGHT

There are Ministry Booklets available on the table in the main foyer. Here's a spotlight on two of our ministries:

Linen Caretakers – Needed to take home used linens, altar cloths purificators and towels to clean and press. There is a rotating schedule. You need a caring eye for detail, knowledge concerning laundering, pressing and folding.
Coordinator – Bea Agamaite 301-904-2008 jbaggie039@yahoo.com

Troops of St. George – This group uses the outdoor as our canvas and the sacraments as our path to light the way for formation of holy Catholic men and boys. Meetings are Thursdays 6:30-8:30, and there is a monthly outing. This group is for Catholic males from 6-18 years old, with the desire to learn skills and the faith knowledge of becoming a Catholic gentleman. This group is currently looking for a new leader. Is it you? Contact Andrew Pontzer 301-737-1796 andrew.pontzer@gmail.com

PLEASE PRAY FOR

THE SICK

THAT THEY MAY BE RESTORED TO FULL HEALTH

Audrey Somers, Louise Shafer, Helen Daye, Kathleen Floyd, Mary Oliver, Judith Ann Allgood, Vince Guerin, Jane Keyon, Linda F. Gieser, Ralph Gough Sr., Betty LePore, Bill Wagoner, Paula Coxon, Vincent Campanella, Joseph Hugh Weiland, Rylee Corliss, Rose Marie Weiland, Alan Stapanon, Ruby Garcia, Mia Garcia, Matthew Riddell, Marie C. Williams, Jim Hoffman, Kaylee Klier, David Kalil, Wanda Slater

Please note: names will remain on this list for two months, unless otherwise notified. To keep a name on the list, please resubmit by contacting bulletin@ihmrcc.org, or call the Parish Office.

PAPAL PRAYER INTENTION FOR MARCH

We pray for Christians facing new bioethical challenges; may they continue to defend the dignity of all human life with prayer and action.

Follow us on



MARCH 19 & 20, 2022

IHM COOKBOOK: RECIPES NEEDED! As part of our 75th Anniversary celebration, we are putting together a parish cookbook. If you would like to contribute recipes, there are two ways to do so: online or in paper. In either case, please submit your recipe(s) as soon as possible, and in no case later than May 5.

Online Submissions: <https://www.typonsave.com/> using username IHM75cb and password pickle907.

On Paper: please submit to parish office (typed or block letters preferred, please include your name and contact information in case we have questions). You can bring it in, mail it in, or drop it in a collection basket.

For all submissions, please note the following tips to avoid confusion and make sure we have a consistent format.

Recipe Writing Tips:

Only 1 ingredient per line.

List ingredients in order used.

Include container sizes, e.g. (16-oz.) pkg., (24-oz.) can.

Write directions in paragraph form, not in steps.

Use names of ingredients in the directions, e.g. "Combine flour and sugar." DO NOT use statements like "Combine first three ingredients."

Include temperatures and cooking, chilling, baking and/ or freezing times.

Use the following standard abbreviations:

c. cup(s), **tsp.** teaspoon(s), **T.** tablespoon(s), **lb.** pound, **lbs.** pounds, **oz.** ounce(s), **sm.** small, **med.** medium, **lg.** large, **approx.** approximately, **pkg.** package, **pkgs.** packages, **pt.** pint(s), **qt.** quart(s), **gal.** gallon(s), **env.** envelope, **ctn.** container(s) / carton(s), **opt.** optional, **g.** gram(s), **mg** milligram(s), **No. 2** number 2 can, **doz.** dozen, **L.** liter(s), **reg.** regular

More information about the cookbook will be given shortly.

ALTAR FLOWERS/SANCTUARY CANDLES If you would like to donate the Altar Flowers or Sanctuary Candles in memory or for special intentions of a loved one, please call the Parish Office or email at cindy@ihmrcc.org.

MASS INTENTIONS may be requested at the parish office during regular office hours (M—F, 8 am—4 pm) in person or by phone (301-863-8144 x11), or by e-mailing julian@ihmrcc.org. Your desired date may not be available. We now have the ability to accept Mass intention stipends online (but only **after** the date has been accepted by the office).

SHROUD OF TURIN PRESENTATION On Thursday, March 31st, Bill Wingard, a renowned presenter on the Shroud of Turin will be at St. Aloysius in Leonardtown. He will display a life-size replica of the famous Shroud and give intriguing historical and scientific evidence that suggests its authenticity as the burial cloth of Jesus. The evening will begin at 5:30 pm, soup supper at 6:00, and Talk at 7:00. To help us prepare for the supper, RSVP through the St. Aloysius website www.saintaloyuschurch.org

FORMED To sign up to Formed, the premier site to access Catholic Media online, go to www.formed.org and press "sign up" and then "sign up as a parishioner". Type in the ZIP code of the parish "20653", follow the directions to create an account, and then enjoy!

LENTEN RETREAT A powerful Lenten half-day retreat is coming to the Seton Shrine! Join Fr. Roch Mary Greiner, CFR, on a day of reflection on the Real Presence of the Eucharist on Saturday, April 2nd at the Seton Shrine. Throughout the retreat, participants will be invited to reflect on "What is the Sacrament of the Eucharist? What is Transubstantiation? Anamnesis? Why do we do Adoration?" as well as the healing power of the Eucharist. Cost: \$15 Learn more or register at setonshrine.org or call 301-447-6606.

WALK IN THE PARK St. Francis Xavier Parish 5th annual Fun Run/Walk through Beautiful Newtowne Neck State Park on Saturday, April 9 at 8 am. Registration will be masked with social distancing. Staggered starts will be from 8 am until 2 pm. The event will happen rain or shine, beginning at St. Francis Xavier Church. The event is stroller and pet friendly. For online registration, go to www.st.francisxavierchurch.org.

IHM CRAFTERS IHM crafters, as part of our 75th Anniversary celebration we would like to raffle off some of your creations throughout the year. The funds will be used to help with this year's anniversary celebration costs. If you are interested in donating, contact Dennis DeCarlo (301-863-5133, decarlopd@verizon.net) or Anne Krech (301-373-6106, kamp-krech@md.metrocast.net)

MASS WITH HEALING PRAYERS This month's Mass with Healing Service is at 7 pm on Monday, March 28th. After Mass, we will have Eucharistic Adoration and prayers for healing with laying on of hands. Confessions begin at 6:30 pm and continue as long as there are customers!

BULLETIN DEADLINE Please email your submission to bulletin@ihmrcc.org by Wednesday at 10 am prior to the Sunday of publication. All entries are subject to editing.

March 20, 2022

Third Sunday of Lent

Ex 3:1-8a, 13-15 | 1 Cor 10:1-6, 10-12 | Lk 13:1-9

GROW AS A DISCIPLE | PRAY, STUDY, ENGAGE, SERVE

Several years ago, my family gave me a blueberry bush for Mother's Day. It has yet to produce a single berry. However, I can't bring myself to remove it, and today's Gospel encourages me to be patient (a Google search reveals that it can take several years for a blueberry bush to produce a harvest!). The parable of the fig tree shows us how patient God is with us. Like the fig tree, we may not bear fruit or feel as if we're growing spiritually, even as we enter the second half of Lent. Yet Jesus teaches us that if we nurture our faith through prayer and repentance of our sins, we can always grow and blossom. Like the gardener, we need to be patient with ourselves as God is patient with us.

GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

It strikes me that in the parable of the fig tree, the gardener offered to cultivate *the ground around it*. Just as a tree needs light and water and a little individual TLC, it needs good soil. I think for us Catholics, that can be where our parish community and the broader Church come in. Through small actions such as greeting newcomers at Sunday Mass or volunteering in a parish ministry, we can become the fertile soil that nourishes not only our own faith, but that of the entire community. The 2021-23 Synod on Synodality invites us to share our faith and also to listen without judgment to the experiences of others. In doing so, we as a Church can grow stronger. As Pope Francis said in his opening prayer, "May this Synod be a true season of the Spirit! For we need the Spirit, the ever new breath of God, who sets us free from every form of self-absorption, revives what is moribund, loosens shackles and spreads joy."

STUDY Learn about the Synod on Synodality: www.usccb.org/synod. Check your parish bulletin to see how you can get involved.