



Dear Friends in Christ,

I have good news and I have bad news.

First the good: this year, our Archdiocese of Washington hopes to ordain 17 men as transitional deacons, who would be ordained priests in 2024. I'm not sure when was the last time our Archdiocese ordained so many men to the priesthood at one time. Possibly never. In my memory, the largest class was 12. That year, we had the second-largest ordination class in the country. The largest belonged to Newark, NJ, where 18 men were ordained that year, but Newark's Catholic population is twice that of ours.

Now the bad news: our Archdiocese of Washington has a serious problem. We not only have those 18 men studying for the priesthood, but also another 63 (including IHM's own Greg Lawrence). That means paying tuition for 80 men each year, never mind housing and feeding them. OK, it's a good problem to have, but it's still a problem.

Cardinal Gregory said in a meeting last week, "I've got 80 sons to put through college". But we know that it's not solely his responsibility. It is all of our responsibility. Promoting and supporting vocations is something we each ought to do, full of joy and hope. We've seen in other dioceses how parishes have had to be merged for lack of priests, and how one priest sometimes has to "ride circuit" to celebrate Mass at three, four or more churches. I once met a priest that was responsible for 19 churches.

We avoid that situation in our own Church of Washington by praying for vocations, by encouraging men and young men (including those in our families) to consider if God might be calling them to the priesthood, and by doing what we can to ensure that those who do discern the call are able to receive a top-notch formation in the seminary. As a bit of a side note, we should rejoice that the men being formed and ordained for our Archdiocese in recent years are bright, holy and well-formed. Certainly brighter, holier and better formed than yours truly.

Our Church of Washington is able to send 80 of our sons to seminary because of your generosity in giving to the Annual Appeal. Over one third of the Appeal funds go to vocations support. On behalf of Cardinal Gregory, thank you to all our families who made a contribution in 2022 to help the archdiocese reach its goal for last year's Appeal.

Now, I ask you to consider prayerfully your gift to

the 2023 Annual Appeal. If you are not familiar with the Annual Appeal, you may wonder how it is different and separate from your offertory giving to the parish. First, the Annual Appeal unites us with our archbishop in serving the many, charitable needs of the Church of Washington. Second, the Annual Appeal funds ministries that our parish could not sustain on our own, such as seminarian formation, campus ministry programs, pro-life ministries and post-abortion healing programs, and Deaf and disabilities ministries. Third, the Annual Appeal supports our parish life, including Little Flower School, our Children's Faith Formation program and our Food Pantry (which has received a number of grants from the Archdiocese).

The Annual Appeal is a call to stewardship. It is not mandatory. This means that the many vibrant ministries we have in the archdiocese are the result of families such as your own who have responded generously each year with your free will offering. As in every year, 100% of your gift to the Annual Appeal is restricted to the ministries that are a part of the Annual Appeal and cannot be used for any other purpose. Please see the brochure in the pews this week or the website [appeal.adw.org](http://appeal.adw.org) for more information on the Appeal and the ministries it supports.

Next weekend will be our commitment weekend. Thank you in advance for your prayerful commitment to the 2023 Annual Appeal. Your steadfast generosity not only is a source of inspiration for me but a force for good in our Church today. Together, we continue building up the Kingdom of God in ways we cannot do each on our own. Working together, and with God's grace, our bad news turns to good news, and our good news is even better.

Yours in Christ Jesus,  
Fr. Marco

**2022 CONTRIBUTION STATEMENTS AVAILABLE** Your giving statement is available online through [my.ihmrcc.org](http://my.ihmrcc.org) or by calling the parish office. Please note that for those who use online giving, this is not necessarily the same username and password you use for online giving.

**FIRST TUESDAY COFFEE** The next First Tuesday Coffee will be held on Tuesday, February 7 from 9 until 11 am in the Parish Hall. Please bring a friend and a non-perishable food item for the Food Pantry.

**GARDEN AND GROUNDS MINISTRY** We have various projects around the church that need to be completed. Any adult or child would be welcome. If you want to volunteer, please contact Martha Davie by phone or text at 240-434-3510. Thank you!

# FIFTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME



February 6 — February 12

|                  |  |
|------------------|--|
| <b>Monday</b>    | Gn 1:1-19/Ps 104:1-2a, 5-6, 10 and 12, 24 and 35c/Mk 6:53-56           |
| <b>9:00 am</b>   | <b>Dapray Muir (D)</b>   |
| <b>Tuesday</b>   | Gn 1:20—2:4a/Ps 8:4-5, 6-7, 8-9/<br>Mk 7:1-13                          |
| <b>5:30 pm</b>   | <b>Lourdes Ocado (L)</b>   |
| <b>Wednesday</b> | Gn 2:4b-9, 15-17/Ps 104:1-2a, 27-28, 29bc-30/Mk 7:14-23                |
| <b>9:00 am</b>   | <b>Rev. Michal Sajnog (L)</b>  |
| <b>Thursday</b>  | Gn 2:18-25/Ps 128:1-2, 3, 4-5/<br>Mk 7:24-30                           |
| <b>5:30 pm</b>   | <b>Andaya Family (D)</b>   |
| <b>Friday</b>    | Gn 3:1-8/Ps 32:1-2, 5, 6, 7/<br>Mk 7:31-37                             |
| <b>9:00 am</b>   | <b>Walter Thomas Brown (D)</b>   |
| <b>Saturday</b>  | Gn 3:9-24/Ps 90:2, 3-4abc, 5-6, 12-13/<br>Mk 8:1-10                    |
| <b>9:00 am</b>   | <b>Hongboon Choie (D)</b>  |
| <b>4:00 pm</b>   | <b>Mary Anne Winters (L)</b>   |
| <b>Sunday</b>    | Sir 15:15-20/Ps 119:1-2, 4-5, 17-18, 33-34/<br>1 Cor 2:6-10/Mt 5:17-37 |
| <b>8:30 am</b>   | <b>Rev. Michael Dolon (L)</b>  |
| <b>11:15 am</b>  | <b>Cristian Irizarry (D)</b>   |
| <b>1:00 pm</b>   | <b>All IHM Parishioners</b>  |

**BULLETIN DEADLINE** Please email your submission to [bulletin@ihmrcc.org](mailto:bulletin@ihmrcc.org) by Wednesday at 10 am prior to the Sunday of publication. All entries are subject to editing.

**PRAYER CHAIN** The Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton Shrine has a prayer line where you can talk and pray with someone over the phone. The prayer line is open Monday through Friday from 10 am to 5 pm. Call 1-866-202-4934.

**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](mailto: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).

**IT SHOULDN'T HURT AT HOME** The Catholic community cares about families experiencing violence and unhealthy relationships. Visit [www.CatholicsforFamilyPeace.org](http://www.CatholicsforFamilyPeace.org) to learn more about this issue, how to help, who to call, and the rich Catholic teaching that supports survivors. If you need help now, contact the National Domestic Violence Hotline, 800-799-7233 (24 hours); 800-787-3224 (TTY); [www.ndvh.org](http://www.ndvh.org) to find assistance near you.

## Events Calendar

February 6 — February 12

|       |               |                      |
|-------|---------------|----------------------|
| Tues: | 9 am to 11 am | First Tuesday Coffee |
| Sun:  | 4 pm          | Mass in Tagalog      |

**MASS IN THE PARKING LOT** As a reminder, during IHM's weekend Masses we have in-parking lot options available. While parked at IHM, if you tune to 99.7 FM you can hear the Mass broadcast live. If you park in the second, smaller parking lot, we will bring out Communion at the appropriate time if you have your hazard lights on.

**KING CAKES FOR LIFE** The American Heritage Girls are selling king cakes for life. What is a king cake? A king cake is a cross between a coffee cake and a French pastry that is decorated in the colors of green, purple and gold with a plastic baby hidden inside. It is served on Mardi Gras (Day before Ash Wednesday) 100% of the proceeds go to the CareNet Pregnancy Center. Each cake is \$40. To order, please contact Debbie Cress at 540-220-1830. There is a limited number of freshly made cakes available, order yours today! Pick-up dates are Saturday, February 18 and Sunday, February 19. Pick up locations are Immaculate Heart of Mary, St. John's, or St. Aloysius.

## PLEASE PRAY FOR

### THE SICK

#### THAT THEY MAY BE RESTORED TO FULL HEALTH

Audrey Somers, Helen Daye, Kathleen Floyd, Mary Oliver, Judith Ann Allgood, Vince Guerin, Jane Kenyon, Linda F. Gieser, Ralph Gough Sr., Betty LePore, Bill Wagoner, Joseph Hugh Weiland, Rylee Corliss, Rose Marie Weiland, Alan Stapanon, Ruby Garcia, Mia Garcia, Matthew Riddell, Marie C. Williams, Kaylee Klier, David Kalil, Wanda Slate, Enequina Melendez, Hector Perez, Josephine, Glenn Thompson III, John Worrell, Tim Brosnihan, Jim Makin, Carmen Colby, Tracey Herrera, Gary Green, Grace Miedzinski, Bruce Riddell, Katelyn Corliss, Robert Weaver, Linda Jones, Devlin Rich, Ana Gates, Mike Price

*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](mailto:bulletin@ihmrcc.org), or call the Parish Office.*

#### PAPAL PRAYER INTENTION FOR FEBRUARY

We pray that parishes, placing communion at the center, may increasingly become communities of faith, fraternity and welcome towards those most in need.

Follow us on



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# FEBRUARY 4 & 5, 2023

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**MASS IN TAGALOG** IHM invites you to attend a Tagalog Mass on Sunday, February 12 at 4 pm. Please join us after Mass for a potluck Filipino fellowship in the Large Classroom. For more information, contact Joy Gates (240-434-3663) or Ronnie Chavez (26ronchavez@gmail.com).

**SUCCESSFUL COMMUNITY BABY SHOWER** Thank you to everyone who supported our "1st Annual Community Baby Shower" last Sunday. Your generosity is greatly appreciated by us and CareNet of Southern MD. The amount of clothes and baby supplies was overwhelming and will help many people!

**STUDY SERIES FOR SINGLE CATHOLICS** Starting the week of February 6, NCSC will be hosting a 6-week study series - "Relationship Ready: A Single Catholic's Roadmap to Marriage" that will cover topics such as the meaning of love, communication, conflict resolution, male/female complementarity and much more. To sign up for this program, visit [NationalCatholicSingles.com](http://NationalCatholicSingles.com).

**BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT GROUP** The Shrine of the Most Blessed Sacrament at in Northwest Washington, DC will offer a virtual eight-week bereavement support group series for adults who have experienced the death of a parent, spouse, child, sibling or significant other. The Winter series will begin Tuesday, February 28 and continue for eight consecutive Tuesdays through April 18 from 7 pm to 8:30 pm. Meetings are virtual using zoom technology. There is no fee, but registration is required. For more information contact Jim Hoffman at [hoffmanlpc@gmail.com](mailto:hoffmanlpc@gmail.com) or call cell at (202) 577 – 2213.



**ST. VINCENT DE PAUL OF IHM** Our food pantry provides food to those who need assistance. We'd like to have you help us bag groceries from the food in our food pantry for our clients, or to pick up food from grocery stores in our area that donate to us. We do this throughout the week, excluding weekends. We have meetings just once a month. If you'd like to volunteer in our food pantry, please call 301-863-8193 on Mondays, Wednesdays or Fridays from 8:30 to 11:30 am, which is when the pantry is open. Leave your name and number and we will work to get you started as soon as you'd like.

**MUSIC MINISTRY** Interested in Music Ministry but don't have a lot of time to commit? We have groups that serve at Mass only once or twice a month. You are needed! Also looking for accomplished pianists willing to play for Masses. Let me know if you are interested. [mary@ihmrcc.org](mailto:mary@ihmrcc.org).

**LOYOLA ON THE POTOMAC**, A Jesuit Retreat House in Faulkner, MD is open for various retreat weekends, for both men and women. Directed and Private Retreats are also available. See our complete Retreat Schedule at: [www.loyolaonthepotomac.com](http://www.loyolaonthepotomac.com), (301) 392-0800.

**LAZARUS COMMITTEE** The Lazarus Committee provides funeral repasts for the funerals of active and registered parishioners. If interested in joining the Lazarus committee or for more information, please contact Pat at 240-925-0021 or Linda at 240-298-5264.

**DISCOVER CHESTERTON OPEN HOUSE** Chesterton Academy of St. Mary's invites all current 8th through 11th graders and their parents to Mass and an open house on Friday, February 10. Mass begins at 8 am, and the open house is from 8:40 am until 10:15 am. To RSVP, go to <https://www.chestertonstmarys.org/events>.

**WOMEN'S NIGHT OF RECOLLECTION** On Tuesday, February 7th at 7 pm at St. Cecilia's. This month's talk is "Encountering Forgiveness: Confession," given by Fr. Larry Swink and a visiting priest. Through the sacrament of Penance, God desires to strengthen and heal our soul, deepen our relationship with Him. What is the teaching of this sacrament, and how is it a source of healing? This month's format includes two talks, Adoration, and Confession.

**LENTEN SEAFOOD DINNER** IHM will be hosting our Friday Dine In and Take Out Lent Seafood Dinners every Friday during Lent, which is February 24 through March 31. Further advertisements on Menu and Prices will be posted in bulletin and emailed out once they are established. Please plan on supporting this key Parish fund raiser as a volunteer and with an appetite to make it a successful event.

**PALM COLLECTION** In order to create the ashes that we use for Ash Wednesday, we ask that all palms from Palm Sunday last year are returned to the baskets located in the main church.

**FORMED** To sign up for Formed, the premier site to access Catholic Media online, go to [www.formed.org](http://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!

February 5, 2023

Written by  
THE  
FAITHFUL  
DISCIPLE

## Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Is 58:7-10 | 1 Cor 2:1-5 | Mt 5:13-16

“

**You are the salt  
of the earth, you  
are the light of  
the world.”**

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

It's amazing how one interaction can brighten an otherwise gloomy day. I love a nice sunrise on a wintry morning or a crackling fire on an autumn night. But whatever the weather, nothing quite lights up my day like a shared laugh with a friend, a snippet of real conversation with my teen son, or a hot cup of coffee delivered by my husband. In today's reading, Jesus continues the Sermon on the Mount, telling the disciples: "Your light must shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your heavenly Father." We, too, can be light for others - through good deeds large and small, ordinary and extraordinary. As we go about our days, we can ask the Lord to show us how to serve others. We will have days when we don't feel up to the task but, like St. Paul, we can ask the Holy Spirit to light the way.

### **GO EVANGELIZE**

**PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT**

In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus used images that resonate with us as much as they did with his followers 2,000 years ago: salt and light. Salt serves many purposes, preserving our food and giving it flavor, for example. And of course we cannot live without light. In today's Gospel, Jesus tells the disciples: "You are the salt of the earth ... You are the light of the world." Like the disciples we, too, can be salt and light for others by giving witness to our faith. What that involves will be different for each of us. For ideas, we can turn to today's reading from Isaiah, which calls us to share our bread, shelter the oppressed and clothe the naked. In doing so, our light "shall break forth like the dawn."

**ACTION** We all know people we'd call "the salt of the earth." Who are those people in your life? Make a list of the characteristics they exhibit or actions they take that you can learn from and try to imitate. Ask God for the grace to see and do likewise for his glory.