

Dear Friends in Christ,

Today's Scriptures contain several challenges that deserve our attention as we grow in our identity as faithful disciples. Key among them must be the call to love our neighbor and to be perfect and holy as God is perfect and

holy.

Taken from Matthew's Sermon on the Mount, today's Gospel demonstrates that this call is lived out in the events of our daily lives. In reading this Gospel, it is hard not to be reminded of *Les Misérables* by Victor Hugo (or its Broadway adaptation). Early on in the story, Jean Valjean, the lovable scoundrel, is arrested for stealing silver from the house of the local bishop. What makes the crime so foolhardy is that Jean had been taken in by the bishop when others had rejected him because of his criminal background.

As he stands before the bishop, the inevitability of prison faces him. But there's a twist: The bishop doesn't condemn him; instead, he points out that Jean Valjean has forgotten to take the matching candlesticks. Of course, this is not what the police expected and, in the end, they have to release Jean. Unable to understand what has happened he remains silent, while the bishop quietly remarks: "Today I have bought your soul for God, use this treasure to become an honest and upright man." Clearly, the bishop is not preoccupied with the things of this world. His focus is on those in need, those he can help and serve. He sees the potential in Jean Valjean, not simply the past.

As Christians, we glimpse the very nature of God in Christ. He brings us the gifts of perfection, mercy, and holiness. To share in his life is to share in those gifts and to make a public statement that God's standards are our standards; his goals are our goals. Therefore, if he comes with these divine attributes, they should be part of our lives too. If we truly believe in the kingdom of God, then all that Jesus teaches should be visible in our lives.

As we move into Lent this week, our common task is to see if we really do reflect Christ's Gospel. Remember that holiness and mercy are not simply pious words that fade like incense or that come and go like a summer breeze. True holiness and mercy are witnessed in serving those in need – those who suffer or who need that extra help through the obstacles of life, having a true heart for all who find life burdensome, and seeing the potential in others rather than their past.

True holiness is more than just striving after a state of moral innocence or spiritual perfection. It begins there, but it cannot end there – it always has a practical side to it. It takes us above and beyond what is acceptable behavior for everyone else.

Jean Valjean wondered to himself where the saintly bishop learned his compassion and forgiveness. His answer was the Gospel – the word and example proclaimed by Christ. We know it too. And we give thanks for it.

Yours in Christ Jesus,
Fr. Marco

2022 CONTRIBUTION STATEMENTS AVAILABLE Your giving statement is available online through 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.

ASH WEDNESDAY MASS TIMES Ash Wednesday is Wednesday, February 22nd. Mass is at 6:30 am, 9 am, and 7 pm at IHM. There will also be mass at St. Nicholas on Base at 11:35 am .

LFS MULCH SALE Little Flower School is having their annual mulch sale! Mulch can be purchased in bag and in bulk form, as well as in three colors: brown, red, and black. To make an order a form must be filled out and turned in no later than February 28. Paper forms can be picked up at the main entrances, and online forms can be completed at <https://www.littleflowercatholic.org/mulch-sale>. Delivery is available! For more information, contact Vanessa Burgan at mulchsalelfs@gmail.com or 240-298-3965.

PERPETUAL ADORATION Did you know our very own Immaculate Heart of Mary offers you the opportunity to participate in Perpetual Adoration? Some may ask "What is Perpetual Adoration?" Perpetual Adoration is a Eucharistic devotion whereby members unite in the adoration before the Most Blessed Sacrament with the goal of adoring The Blessed Sacrament perpetually (24 hours a day). If you are interested, please call our adoration coordinator, Jeff Harmon, at 240-538-5017 or email adoration@ihmrcc.org for more information.

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!

SEVENTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME



February 20 — February 26

Monday	Sir 1:1-10/Ps 93:1ab, 1cd-2, 5/ Mk 9:14-29
9:00 am	Tiny Taylor (L)
Tuesday	Sir 2:1-11/Ps 37:3-4, 18-19, 27-28, 39-40/ Mk 9:30-37
5:30 pm	Gertrudes Toledo (D)
Wednesday	Jl 2:12-18/Ps 51:3-4, 5-6ab, 12-13, 14 and 17/2 Cor 5:20-6:2/Mt 6:1-6, 16-18
6:30 am	All IHM Parishioners
9:00 am	All IHM Parishioners
7:00 pm	All IHM Parishioners
Thursday	Dt 30:15-20/Ps 1:1-2, 3, 4 and 6/ Lk 9:22-25
5:30 pm	Gertrudes Toledo (D)
Friday	Is 58:1-9a/Ps 51:3-4, 5-6ab, 18-19/ Mt 9:14-15
9:00 am	Michael McDowel (D)
Saturday	Is 58:9b-14/Ps 86:1-2, 3-4, 5-6/ Lk 5:27-32
9:00 am	William C. Veale (L)
4:00 pm	
Sunday	Gn 2:7-9; 3:1-7/Ps 51:3-4, 5-6, 12-13, 14 and 17/Rom 5:12-19/Mt 4:1-11
8:30 am	Viola Cutchember (L)
11:15 am	Alexander Martinez (S)
1:00 pm	All IHM Parishioners

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.

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).

MEN'S NIGHT OF RECOLLECTION On Tuesday, February 28th at 7 pm at St. Cecilia's. This evening's topic will be "Penance! Penance! Penance!" given by Fr. Larry Swink. This month's format includes 2 Talks, "What does a good confession look like?" and "The inestimable value of penance for you, your loved ones and all of humanity." Adoration and Confession begins at 6:30pm.

Events Calendar

February 20 — February 26

Mon:	All Day	Parish Office Closed
Tues:	6 pm	Shrove Tuesday Dinner
Wed:	See Bulletin	Ash Wednesday Masses
Fri:	4 pm to 7 pm	Lenten Seafood Dinner
	7 pm	Stations of the Cross, English
	8 pm	Stations of the Cross, Spanish
Sun:	After All Masses:	Fellowship Sunday
	4 pm to 6 pm	Youth Group at IHM

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.

MIDDLE SCHOOL MOVIE NIGHT on Friday, February 24 from 6 pm until 8pm at Chesterton Academy of St. Mary's. The movie and first popcorn are free! Also available will be \$2 Hot Chocolate with full hot chocolate bar, \$1 Treats, candy and additional popcorn! To RSVP go to www.chestertonstmarys.org/events.

MASS WITH HEALING PRAYERS This month's Mass with Healing Prayers is at 7 pm on Monday, February 27th. 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 penitents.

PLEASE PRAY FOR

THE SICK

THAT THEY MAY BE RESTORED TO FULL HEALTH

Audrey Somers, Helen Daye, Kathleen Floyd, Mary Oliver, 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, Enedina Melendez, Hector Perez, Josephine, Glenn Thompson III, John Worrell, Jim Makin, Carmen Colby, Gary Green, Grace Miedzinski, Bruce Riddell, Katelyn Corliss, Robert Weaver, Linda Jones, Devlin Rich, Ana Gates, Mike Price, Corrine Geraty

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 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



FEBRUARY 18 & 19, 2023

SHROVE TUESDAY PANCAKE SUPPER The Knights of Columbus Council 9968 invites everyone to a Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper on Tuesday, February 21 from 6 pm to 8 pm at the Fellowship Hall. Pancakes with a variety of fruit toppings, Bacon, and Sausage will be served as well as an Ice Cream station. Suggested Donation for the supper is \$10 per person, \$20 per family. Donations to support church projects.

IHM FELLOWSHIP SUNDAY The Next Fellowship Sunday is on Sunday, February 26th. Join us in the Parish Hall for coffee, donuts, and fellowship after mass!

SEAFOOD DINNER VOLUNTEERS NEEDED To make our Lenten Dinners a success, we need help:

Thurs 5-7 pm - setting up the serving line and drink station (3-5 people)

Friday 9 am to noon - prepping some food items (3-5 people)

Friday 3:30 to 7 pm - frying and baking food (5-6 adults)

Friday 4 to 5:30 and 5:30 to 7 pm - serving food (6-7 per shift)

Friday 6:30 to 9 pm - cleaning up, washing dishes, breaking down the lines (6-8 people)

Saturday 8 am to noon - cleaning fryers (3-4 people, actual time about 2 hours).

To volunteer, please e-mail Ken Roof at kroofjr@gmail.com or sign up on the boards in the foyer.

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.

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 or call cell at (202) 577 – 2213.

LENTEN SEAFOOD DINNER DESSERTS Cakes, pies, cupcakes, brownies, cookies, oh my! St. Vincent de Paul of IHM is sponsoring the dessert table during the Lenten Seafood Dinners. We are looking for donations of desserts. Please bring a dessert to the church on the Fridays during Lent (February 24 through March 31) by 3:30 pm. Thank you for your support!

2023 ANNUAL APPEAL: MANY MINISTRIES, ONE CHURCH

This weekend parishioners are being asked prayerfully to consider making a gift to the 2023 Annual Appeal. Please complete or take a commitment form at Mass this weekend, or make your gift at give.adw.org. Visit appeal.adw.org to learn more about how the Annual Appeal benefits our parish and serves people in need throughout the archdiocese. It is our goal that every parish family will participate this year. All gifts will be credited towards our parish goal. Thank you in advance for your generous response to the 2023 Annual Appeal.

PARISH DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS OUTREACH TEAM


Parishioners are invited to join the Catholic Charities Domestic Violence Outreach Team. The team brings helpful and lifesaving information to parish groups to raise awareness about domestic violence and community resources that can help families. Using provided curriculum and training, volunteers will prepare and present short presentations to parish groups virtually or in-person during the year to raise awareness and help families know community resources available to help families suffering domestic abuse. Catholic Charities supports and assist presentations. For more information contact Laura.YeomansDV@CC-DC.org or (301) 247-7926. Applications are due by March 10th.

LENTEN SEAFOOD DINNER IHM is hosting our Seafood Dinner once again! Prices are \$16 (shrimp or rockfish), \$17 (oysters or scallops) and \$24 (seafood platter with shrimp, oysters, scallops and rockfish). 2 sides included (green beans, French fries, mac & cheese, stewed tomatoes or extra hush puppies). Kids' meal (fish sticks and one side) is \$5. Dine-in or take-out. Order and pay in person (cash and check) or online at seafood.ihmrcc.org (credit card, ACH or Google Pay). Proceeds to fund replacement of our supplemental hymnals (Worship His Majesty), which are falling apart.

VOCATION TREES Please take a card from one of the vocations trees at either of the main entrances and pray for our seminarians during Lent. The cards with the purple string has a prayer in English and the cards with the white string are in Spanish.

PARISH OFFICE CLOSED On Monday, February 20. Happy Presidents Day!

"The Temptations of Christ" LENTEN RETREAT We will be holding a retreat on Saturday, March 11 after the 9 am Mass until 1 pm. The speakers for the retreat are our own Fr. Marco, Fr. Ted, and Dcn. Juan. A continental breakfast will be provided.

A photograph of a man and a woman walking away from the camera on a dirt path. They are holding hands. The path is flanked by trees and shrubs, and the scene is bathed in warm, golden light, suggesting late afternoon or early morning. The large tree on the left has its branches arching over the path.

February 19, 2023

Written by
THE
FAITHFUL
DISCIPLE

Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

Lv 19:1-2, 17-18 | 1 Cor 3:16-23 | Mt 5:38-48

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

Today is the last Sunday in Ordinary Time before Lent begins. I realize in saying it that way, however, it sounds like a warning (“the bookstore will be closing in five minutes, please bring your purchases to the register!”) rather than an acknowledgement of the celebration that it is. So let me put it another way: Today is the 7th – of 33 – Sundays in Ordinary Time this year, which means, we’ve only just begun. We are in some of the earliest days of the Church’s “ordered” (ordinary/numbered) approach to helping us mature and grow in faith. We do this by living with and in the life of Christ over the course of a year. At each step we celebrate the life, passion, death, and resurrection of Christ, but we also set aside different seasons to focus on those specific elements. And so it makes sense that as we approach Lent, we hear more about what exactly God asks of us. Lent will be a season of preparation for Christ’s passion; have we prepared our hearts accordingly to receive him? Today’s readings remind us of what sets us back: hatred for others; desire for revenge; grudges; worldly wisdom; all things which are destructive of God’s temple – our souls, as Saint Paul says. Having a heart full of these things means there is no room for love, which means there is no room for Christ. Let us pray for God’s help in ridding ourselves of all that is destructive, and for the strength to grow a heart only for him.

GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

I’d argue that in some ways, Lent actually starts before Ash Wednesday since it requires forethought and planning. We have to prepare for a season of preparation! We have to figure out what to fast from or add to our spiritual lives, and how we might specifically direct our almsgiving. But how ready are we to respond in a meaningful way to the fact that Christ died for love of us? His death transformed our death into the promise of eternal life. Today’s Gospel offers practical actions, things which all Christians should strive for daily, but especially observe during Lent if a spiritual reset is needed. Jesus tells us to turn the other cheek. Hand over your cloak. Go the extra mile: “Give to the one who asks of you, and do not turn your back on one who wants to borrow.” Love your enemies and pray for your persecutors. Lent is a call to act out of love, especially in tough situations. Take these next couple of days to prepare for Ash Wednesday and the weeks that follow.

REFLECT Spend some time taking stock of your spiritual life. Are you holding contempt for someone, or seeking revenge for something? Where might you be falling short in striving to imitate Christ? Bring these thoughts to God in prayer.