

FEBRUARY 15 & 16, 2025



Dear Friends in Christ,

The turning of the calendar to February means the *Annual Catholic Services Appeal* is at hand. On behalf of Cardinal Gregory, thank you to all our families who made a contribution in 2024 to help the archdiocese reach its goal.

Now, I ask you to prayerfully consider your gift to the *2025 Annual Catholic Services Appeal*. If you are not familiar with the Appeal, you may wonder how it is different and separate from your offertory giving to the parish. First, the Appeal unites us as a wider Church in serving the many charitable needs of the Church of Washington. Second, the Appeal funds ministries that our parish could not sustain on our own, such as seminarian formation, campus ministry programs and Deaf and disabilities ministries. Third, the Appeal supports our parish ministerial life, from schools and catechesis, to family and pro-life ministries, to many more in between.

The *Annual Catholic Services 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. I am particularly grateful, as a priest of the archdiocese, for your contribution which helps to inspire new vocations and form our new generations of priests, such as the 16 ordained last year (the highest number in the country).

I am also asked to remind you that, as in every year, 100% of your gift to the Appeal is restricted to the ministries that are a part of the Appeal and cannot be used for any other purpose. Furthermore, your gift will be credited towards our parish goal. You can read more about the *Spirit of Hope: 2025 Annual Catholic Services Appeal* at appeal.adw.org.

Next weekend will be our commitment weekend. Thank you in advance for your prayerful commitment to the *2025 Annual Catholic Appeal*. Your steadfast generosity not only is a source of inspiration for me but a force for good in our Church today.

Yours in Christ Jesus,

Fr. Marco

PARISH OFFICE CLOSED On Monday, February 17th.

IHM FELLOWSHIP SUNDAY The next Fellowship Sunday is on Sunday, February 23. Join us in the Parish Hall for coffee, donuts, and fellowship after Mass!



ALMOST IMMACULATE IHM THRIFT STORE is in need of help! Please stop by the store during operating hours to check out what we do. Then, if you want to help, please contact Deacon Mike at 240-542-8369. We are located in the Kerr House (white building at the street entrance). The thrift store is open Fridays and Saturday from 10 am to 2 pm. Donations (no clothing) accepted during those hours. The thrift shop supports the food pantry and our local community, so stop by and see what you can do!



LITTLE FLOWER SCHOOL invites you to the **Spring Benefit Auction** on Saturday, March 1 from 5 pm until 10 pm at Little Flower School. There will be silent and live auctions, raffle, games, drink specials, and a Southern Maryland Style Dinner by Rita B. Catering. This event is for adults ages 21 and older. To buy tickets for this event, email us at lfspringauction@gmail.com, go to www.littleflowercatholic.org/auction, or scan the QR code provided.

Little Flower School is currently **hiring for two positions**. The positions are Third Grade Teacher and 2-year-old Classroom Aide. Please use the link <https://www.littleflowercatholic.org/jobs> to apply or contact Ms. Keeton at ckeeton@littleflowercatholic.org for more information.

SHROVE TUESDAY PANCAKE SUPPER IHM Knights of Columbus invites everyone to a Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper on Tuesday, March 4th, from 6 pm to 8 pm in the Parish Hall. Pancakes with a variety of fruit toppings, Bacon, Sausage, Juice, and Coffee will be served. Donations to support various Knight of Columbus Charities.



JOIN THE KNIGHTS! Got questions about the Knights of Columbus? Want to be a member? Contact Grand Knight Peter Worrell at 240-5878-4367 or Membership Director Craig Davie at 240-434-6810.

FATHER ALEXANDER GALA Join Our Lady Star of the Sea's annual Father Alexander Gala on Saturday, February 22nd at the Hollywood Firehouse Banquet Hall. This year they are honoring Deacon Chad Martin, Mrs. Therese Thiedeman, and Mr. Steve Sanders with the Father Alexander Award for the work they do in our Southern Maryland community. Tickets are \$75 per person (\$480 for a table of 8) and include dinner. There will be a cash bar and raffles. The proceeds will benefit the rebuilding of their Preschool building. Visit olss.org/gala for more information.

SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

MASS Intentions

Week of February 17 to February 23

Monday	Genesis 4:1-15, 25/Psalm 50:1,8, 16bc-17, 20-21/Mark 8:11-13 Gene Brandenburg (D)
9:00 am	
Tuesday	Genesis 6:5-8; 7:1-5, 10/Psalm 29:1a, 2, 3ac-4, 3b & 9c-10/Mark 8:14-21 Dcn. Wayne A. Lickteig (D)
5:30 pm	
Wednesday	Genesis 8:6-13, 20-22/Psalm 116:12-13, 14-15, 18-19/Mark 8:22-26 Cindy Thompson (L)
9:00 am	
Thursday	Genesis 9:1-13/Psalm 102:16-18, 19-21, 29 and 22-23/Mark 8:27-33 Mary Stevens (L)
5:30 pm	
Friday	Genesis 11:1-9/Psalm 33:10-11, 12-13, 14-15/Mark 8:34—9:1 Jane Kenyon (D)
9:00 am	
Saturday	1 Peter 5:1-4/Psalm 23:1-3a, 4, 5, 6/ Matthew 16:13-19 Gertrudes Toledo (D) All IHM Parishioners
9:00 am	
4:00 pm	
Sunday	1 Samuel 26:2, 7-9, 12-13, 22-23/Psalm 103:1-2, 3-4, 8, 10, 12-13/1 Corinthians 15:45-49/Luke 6:27-38 Dcn. Ronnie Chavez (L) Dcn. Michael Crowe (L) Dcn. Juan Ortiz (L)
8:30 am	
11:15 am	
1:00 pm	

MASS WITH HEALING PRAYERS The next Mass with Healing Prayers is at 7 pm on Monday, February 24. 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.



THE HOLY FATHER'S PRAYER INTENTION

Month of February:
For vocations to the priesthood and religious life

Let us pray that the ecclesial community might welcome the desires and doubts of those young people who feel a call to serve Christ's mission in the priesthood and religious life.

FELLOWSHIP SUNDAY COORDINATOR NEEDED We are looking for someone to take over the Fellowship (donut) Sundays effective in September 2025. It is a once a month commitment on the 4th Sunday of each month. If interested you can contact Janet Hodkiewicz at mainegirlsouth@gmail.com or 240-256-0989 for details. Please explicitly state in your message that your intention is to volunteer for Fellowship Sunday.

LIGHT IN THE DARKNESS: AN ALL DAY EUCHARISTIC ADORATION EVENT Please join us in prayer with the intention of asking God to bring the light of Christ into this world of darkness from Friday, February 21 to Saturday, February 22. The parishes that are participating include: St. Aloysius, Sacred Heart Chapel from Friday 8 am to Saturday 5 pm; Immaculate Conception, Mechanicsville: Friday, 8:30 am to 4 pm; Immaculate Heart of Mary, Lexington Park: Saturday, 9:30 am to 3 pm; St. Cecilia, St. Mary's City: Friday, 8 am to 7 pm; Sacred Heart, LaPlata: Friday, 12:30 pm to 5:30 pm and Our Lady Star of the Sea, Solomons: Friday, 4 pm to 6 pm. Please sign up to help cover some of the hours by signing up through our website at <https://breadoflifecenter.flocknote.com/signup/199472>. Contact Bread of Life Center for Peace for more information at (301) 475-7139.

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.

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.



PLEASE PRAY

THAT THE SICK

MAY BE RESTORED TO FULL HEALTH

Katelyn Corliss, Devlin Rich, Patricia A. Louis, Susan Marie Hollis, Claude Clark, Rodney Finch, Ryan Burch, Michael Briscoe, Melva Coates, Patricia Pruett, Tracy Herrera, Cecilia Torres, Eduardo Torres, Kari Thomas, Glenn Thompson III, Dornin Wong, Alfred and Anna Girard, Veneranda Roe, Lourdes Upp, Noeme Romero, Karen McDonnell, Robert Weaver, Billy González, Zeina Ghalbouny, Thelma Johnson, Jerry Hoffman, Russell Gwynn, Glen Basham, Doris Smith, Caren Brown, Ruby Garcia, Katherine Kosewicz, Mary Arline Evans, Giorgio Michael Parisi, John Worrell, Cece Hoffman, John C. Reed

Please note: names will remain on this list for two months, unless otherwise notified. To keep a name on the list, please resubmit by

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FEBRUARY 15 & 16, 2025

TWO JOB OPPORTUNITIES AT ST. JOSEPH'S St. Joseph's in Pomfret are hiring for the position of Director of Religious Education and Youth Ministry. A minimum of a Bachelor's degree in Theology, Religious Studies, Education or a related field, OR significant relevant experience in Religious Education and Youth Ministry. For a full job description, please visit our website, stjoepomfret.weconnect.com. To apply, send your resume and cover letter to stjoepastor@comcast.net and stjoeoffice@comcast.net.

St Joseph's is also hiring a part-time parish bookkeeper. Previous bookkeeping experience required. Flexible hours. All candidates will have to submit to a background check in compliance with Archdiocesan Child Protection policy prior to receiving an offer of employment. Send resume to stjoepastor@comcast.net and stjoeoffice@comcast.net.

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

2024 GIVING STATEMENTS Your contribution records for 2024 are available online at <http://my.ihmrcc.org>, or by contacting the parish office at 302-863-8144 x14 or office@ihmrcc.org. We can mail them, e-mail them or hold them for pick-up. Please contact the office before coming to pick it up, as the 2 people who have access to those records might not be available if you come without notice.

IHM YOUTH GROUP for middle and high school students. Meetings have started, on Mondays from 6 to 8 pm (but not every Monday). Registration is free at youth.ihmrcc.org. for more information, please contact Martha Worrell at worrell@ihmrcc.org. We are looking for adult volunteers with (or willing to take) the Archdiocesan child protection training and background check.



Chesterton Academy of St. Mary's is hosting a Middle School Game Night on February 21st and an Open House on February 12th at the Immaculate Conception Church Parish Center. Scan the QR Code to RSVP for all events.



Chesterton Academy of St. Mary's is hosting a **Mardi Gras Gala** on Saturday, March 1st from 5 pm until 10 pm at the Mechanicsville Volunteer Fire Department Hall. Please scan the QR Code to purchase tickets.

EVENTS CALENDAR		February 17— February 23
Tues:	12 noon	Jane Kenyon Visitation
	1 pm	Jane Kenyon Funeral Mass
Wed:	10 am	Wednesday Bible Study
Sat:	9:30 am-3:30 pm	All Day Eucharistic Adoration
Sun:	After Mass	IHM Fellowship Sunday

MARDI GRAS DINNER on Saturday, March 1 at St. Catherine Hall, 7636 Port tobacco Road, Port Tobacco. They will have ham, fried chicken, and Jambalaya with all the trimmings. This event will have a Silent Auction and a 50/50 auction as well. Tickets are \$30/person. Call the 301-934-9630 to buy a ticket or a 50/50 chance!

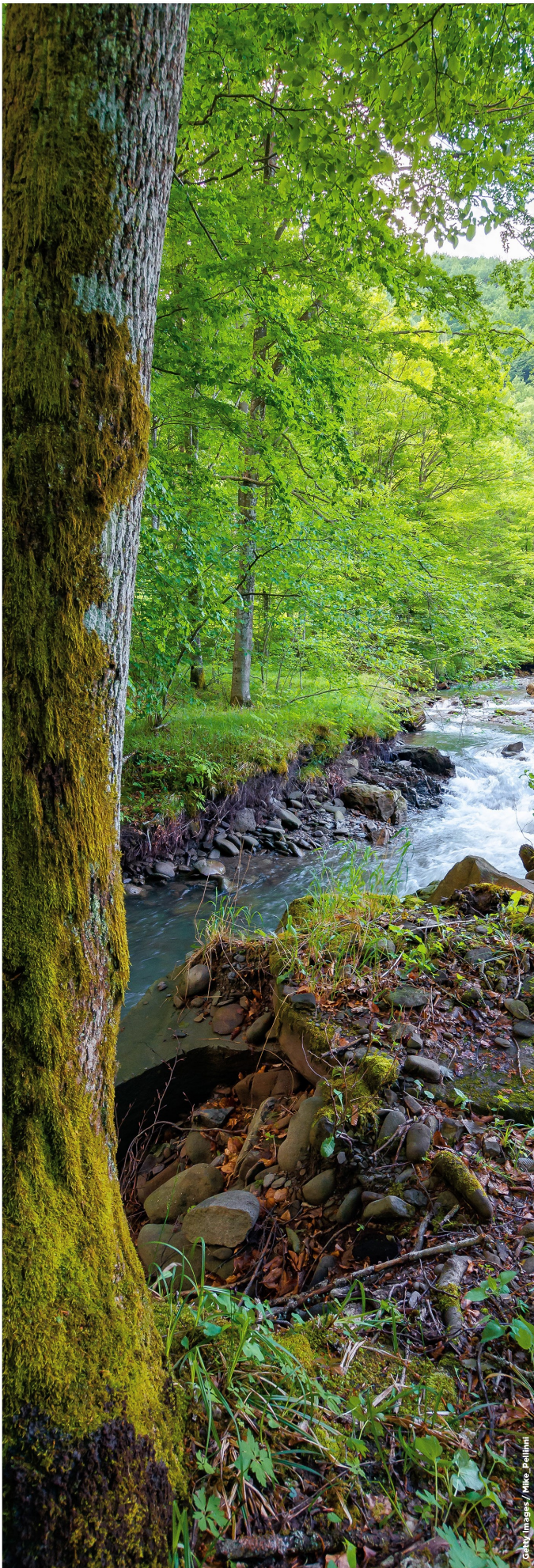
SACRED MUSIC CONCERT by Fr. David Beaubien of St. Aloysius, Leonardtown Enjoy the inspiring concert of voice (Fr. David) and piano (Janis Nowlan) presenting sacred music by Mendelssohn, Fauré, Chopin and others, including some original compositions by Fr. David. Sunday, March 2 at 3 pm at St. Aloysius Church, Leonardtown.

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).

LENTEN RETREAT Please join Our Daybreak Journey for a Lenten Retreat on Saturday, March 1st featuring Lisa Hendey reflecting on discovering joy in God's perfect plan. Visit www.ourdaybreakjourney.com for more information, or contact Penny Bailey at 301-399-2655. Retreat to be held at St. Mary's Newport, in Charlotte Hall, MD.

ONLINE BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT SESSIONS

Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church in DC is offering 8 bereavement sessions starting February 18 through April 8. The sessions are on Tuesdays, are virtual, and are held between 7:30 and 9 pm. The goal of these sessions is to provide a safe and inviting space where grief can be shared freely without expectations, fear or criticism. Group members connect with each other through their loss and help each other through effective and compassionate listening. This is the basic process that helps members work through their burdens of pain and loss. There are no fees but registration is required. If interested please contact Jim Hoffman at 202 577 2213 or email: hoffmanlpc@gmail.com



February 16, 2025

Written by
THE
FAITHFUL
DISCIPLE

Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Jer 17:5-8 | 1 Cor 15:12, 16-20 | Lk 6:17, 20-26

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

“It is so good to be poor, to have nothing, to await all from God!” These sentiments of the humble French religious sister St. Jeanne Jugan sum up the spirit of Jesus’ words in today’s Gospel. Jesus praises poverty, hunger, sadness, and rejection, but certainly not as ends in themselves; God does not take pleasure in our suffering! He does use our suffering, however, to awaken us to our need for him. Poverty can spur us to pursue *heavenly* goods, and thus Jesus assures the poor, “the kingdom of God is yours.” Hunger can cause us to seek God who alone can truly satiate our desires, and thus Jesus says to the hungry, “you will be satisfied.” Those who weep will laugh, Jesus says – so long as their sadness inspires them to seek happiness in the service of God and the joys of eternal life. For all of us, no matter our means or our circumstances, today’s Gospel is a reminder to allow everything – including our difficulties, disappointments, and unfulfilled desires – to turn our hearts to God and rely on his loving care.

GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

It can be difficult to practice the spirit of the Beatitudes (as the “blessings” in today’s Gospel are called) in the moment. Suffering, distress, and confusion easily divert our attention from God as we attempt to “make the problem go away.” Sometimes we are even tempted to give up, to turn aside from God, and to seek consolation in other things. This is exactly the opposite of what he wants for us, and for good reason! God knows that it is best for us to always rely on him. This is why, as today’s first reading explains, the man who trusts in the Lord is secure – “like a tree planted beside the waters ... it fears not the heat when it comes” – and fruitful – “its leaves stay green.” For those who trust in the Lord, help comes from the all-powerful, infinitely loving Creator of the universe. When we entrust ourselves to him, we have nothing to fear.

ACCOMPANY

Is there someone in your life who is struggling with fear, loneliness, anxiety, or sadness? Take time to pray with that person and, together, try to discover God’s invitation to a deeper reliance on him in the midst of the distress. These moments of suffering are never occasions for us to get “preachy.” Instead, accompany your friend and be a reminder of the hope we have in God.