

A Letter from Our Pastor

Dear Friends,

I recently had an uncomfortable, if not frightening, situation unfold in front of me. At the end of Mass, one of our Lourdes youngsters was exiting the church and I noted he was without his brother. Strange, I thought, since they were together during Mass. I asked him where his brother was and he responded, "I don't know, I lost track of him after communion."

I love the fact that we are in a neighborhood where people can walk to church, something I did not experience at my home parish. It is easy to stop by for a visit to Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament, at the Lourdes grotto for some quiet prayer, or even just to know that Jesus is nearby and we are never separated from Him. The downside is that we are in a busy area with lots of traffic, both foot and vehicle. We need to be careful and always watching what's going on. This particular day, I immediately thought, "I hope he didn't get taken." Like a vested Liam Neeson, I searched the church far and wide and came up with nothing. Other people got involved but no one seemed to have seen anything, and I needed to start adoration. Afterward, I called the home of these youngsters, hoping for the best but frightened about the worst. Well.... turns out this child decided to leave Mass after receiving the Eucharist to head home. Why did he do this??? Because, apparently, he sees people doing this all the time and thought to himself, what's the big deal? If adults are doing this, I guess I can too.

I bring this up not to shame this rascal, but rather to point out to you, dear reader, that children watch and children imitate. What we are doing, they notice. And the example we set, they see as something that's ok to do.

My question today is this: what example are we setting? Is it appropriate to leave Mass early, or show up late? Are we setting a good example in the way we dress? Do we want those around us to pray as we do, or to sing the hymns as we do (or don't!).

Mass is supposed to be a JOYFUL experience that allows each of us to give ourselves to God in worship. It is not about checking a box or getting something over with. I know that sometimes we don't necessarily FEEL like being at Church, and those are the times we need to dig in and, through an act of the will, give ourselves over to God. The football game will wait. The brunch will still be there. That tee time may have to shift to accommodate that which is more important: God.

I need to take a moment today and consider for myself and my ministry, am I setting a good example? Do I want people to follow in what I'm doing? I know I can do better and I want to step up and hold myself accountable.

And now I ask you - can we all do the same?

In Him,
 Fr. Rob

OUR TEAM / NUESTRO EQUIPO



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MONDAY / LUNES

7:00AM	Int. Lila Giroux
12:00PM	+ Iris Abeyegoonewardene

FRIDAY / VIERNES

7:00AM	Int. Sheridan Family
12:00PM	+ Trini de la Peña

TUESDAY / MARTES

7:00AM	+ James Caulfield, Sr.
12:00PM	+ Joseph W. McPherson

SATURDAY / SÁBADO

12:00PM	+ Chris Warner
5:00PM	+ Tess Holland

WEDNESDAY / MIERCOLES

7:00AM	Int. Fr. Paul Scalia
12:00PM	+ William Nolan

SUNDAY / DOMINGO

7:30AM	+ Rev. Gerard Trancone
9:30AM	+ Dcn. Robert Price

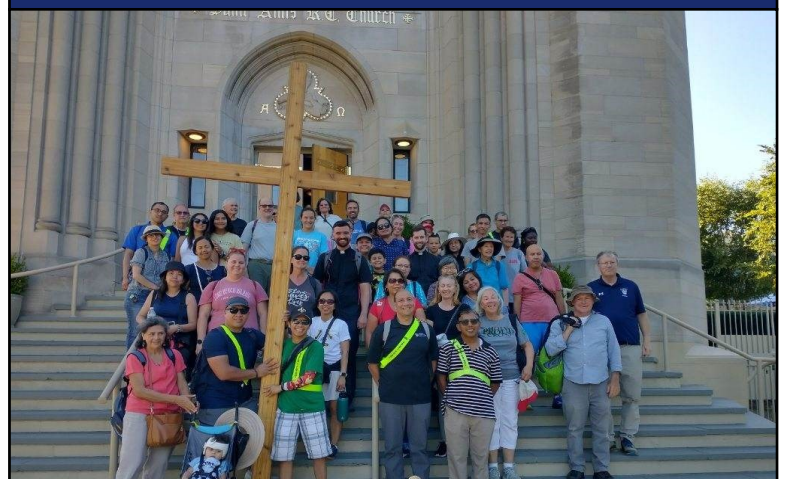
THURSDAY / JUEVES

7:00AM	+ Avelino Gonzalez
12:00PM	Int. Mary Alice Swengros

1:30PM

	People of the Parish

**Please enjoy these photos from our recent
 Crosswalk Pilgrimage**



TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Carta de nuestro párroco

Queridos amigos,

Hace poco tuve ante mí una situación incómoda, por no decir aterradora. Al final de la Misa, uno de nuestros jóvenes de Lourdes salía de la iglesia y noté que estaba sin su hermano. Me pareció extraño, ya que estaban juntos durante la misa. Le pregunté dónde estaba su hermano y me respondió: "No lo sé, le perdí la pista después de la comunión".

Me encanta que estemos en un barrio donde la gente puede ir caminando a la iglesia, algo que no experimentaba en mi parroquia de origen. Es fácil pasar por allí y visitar a Jesús Sacramentado, o pasar por la gruta de Lourdes para rezar en silencio, o simplemente para saber que Jesús está cerca y que nunca nos separamos de Él. El inconveniente es que estamos en una zona muy transitada, con mucho tráfico, tanto de peatones como de vehículos. Tenemos que tener cuidado y estar siempre atentos a lo que pasa. Este día en particular, pensé inmediatamente: "Espero que no se lo hayan llevado". Como un Liam Neeson empedernido, busqué por toda la iglesia y no encontré nada. Otras personas se involucraron, pero nadie parecía haber visto nada, y yo necesitaba empezar la adoración. Después, llamé a casa de estos jóvenes, esperando lo mejor pero temiendo lo peor. Bueno... resulta que este niño decidió abandonar la misa después de recibir la Eucaristía para dirigirse a su casa. ¿Por qué lo hizo? Porque, aparentemente, ve a la gente hacer esto todo el tiempo y pensó para sí mismo, ¿cuál es el problema? Si los adultos lo hacen, spongo que yo también puedo.

No saco esto a colación para avergonzar a este niño, sino para señalarles, queridos lectores, que los niños miran y los niños imitan. Se dan cuenta de lo que hacemos. Y el ejemplo que damos, lo ven como algo que está bien hacer. Mi pregunta hoy es la siguiente: ¿Qué ejemplo estamos dando? ¿Es apropiado salir temprano de misa o llegar tarde? ¿Estamos dando un buen ejemplo con nuestra forma de vestir? ¿Queremos que los que nos rodean recen como nosotros, o que canten los himnos como nosotros (¡o no!)?

Se supone que la misa es una experiencia ALEGRE que nos permite entregarnos a Dios en adoración. No se trata de marcar una casilla o de terminar con algo. Sé que a veces no necesariamente TENEMOS GANAS de estar en la Iglesia, y esos son los momentos en los que necesitamos atrincherarnos y, a través de un acto de voluntad, entregarnos a Dios. El partido de fútbol esperará. El almuerzo seguirá ahí. Puede que la hora del té tenga que cambiar para dar cabida a lo que es más importante: Dios.

Necesito tomarme un momento hoy y considerar para mí y mi ministerio, ¿Estoy dando un buen ejemplo? ¿Quiero que la gente siga lo que estoy haciendo? Sé que puedo hacerlo mejor y quiero dar un paso adelante y hacerme responsable. Y ahora les pregunto: ¿podemos hacer todos lo mismo?

En Él,

P. Rob



Our Lady of Lourdes



**Second and Fourth
Thursdays of the month
6:30 in the Delacroix Room**

mgrannis@gmail.com



LIFE APPS
HACKS, LESSONS, AND PRACTICAL
INSIGHTS TO HELP YOU NAVIGATE
COMMON LIFE CHALLENGES

Get on the Fast Track
to Healthier
Relationships!



Get on the Fast Track to Healthier Relationships!
New Series: Starts October 3rd:

Learn about some of the top issues that come up during most counseling sessions and benefit from solutions based on wisdom gleaned from psychology, philosophy and theology. Presented by Dr. Kathleen Musslewhite, Executive Director of the Alpha Omega Clinic. This series of talks will run on Tuesday afternoons: October 3, October 31, January 9 and February 27 from 12:30-2:00pm. The cost for each session is \$60 per person. This program is a part of the ongoing collaboration between Our Lady of Bethesda Retreat Center and the Alpha Omega Clinic, both located at 7007 Bradley Blvd., Bethesda, MD 20817. **Find more information and links to register on our website: www.ourladyofbethesda.org**

CENTRO
TEPEYAC 
Women's Center

OPEN HOUSE!

Meet the Centro
Tepeyac Team!

On Saturday,
October 21st
10:00am - 1:00pm

12247 Georgia
Avenue
Silver Spring, MD



CENTRO
TEPEYAC 
Women's Center

JORNADA DE PUERTAS ABIERTAS

Conoce el equipo de
Centro Tepeyac!

Sábado
21 de octubre
10:00am - 1:00pm

12247 Georgia
Avenue
Silver Spring, MD



**Shady Grove Pregnancy
Center's 40th Annual
Benefit Banquet:**

Gourmet dinner and dessert,
games, and an inspiring
message from keynote speaker
Abby Johnson.

Held on Thursday, October 26th at the Rockville Hilton
Hotel. Reservations required to attend. RSVP by October
13th by calling 301-963-6223 or register online at:
partnerssgpc.org/benefit-banquet-2023/

**Saint Luke Institute will hold its Annual Benefit at
the Apostolic Nunciature on
Monday, October 16, 2023, from 6:30-8:30pm**
to celebrate their healing ministry of spiritual and
psychological care for clergy and religious. We hope you
will join us! To purchase tickets or for more
information, please visit our website at:
sli.org/benefit or contact our development department
at: development@SLI.org or 502-414-1754.



SAINT LUKE INSTITUTE

**OUR LADY OF LOURDES CHURCH
BETHESDA, MARYLAND**

September 24, 2023

The flowers this week have been generously donated by Jackie Asuku in loving memory of Casimir, Mary, and Maris Asuku.



If you would like to donate the Altar Flowers for a special intention, a special occasion, or in memory of a loved one, please call the parish office or email: ctoms@ololrcc.org. The donation is \$150.

Our September Poor Box will be going to Hope of the Poor. They work in Mexico City, feeding the poor, renting homes to take families off the street, working with employers to find them jobs and much more. Their mission is to inspire all generations to radically love and bring hope to the hopeless. Thank you for your generosity.



Please help us keep our records up-to-date by filling out this form and dropping it in the collection basket or rectory mail slot. You may also register at our parish website or by emailing ctoms@ololrcc.org.

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE: _____

EMAIL: _____

- ☐ I/we am/are new to the parish
☐ Change of address within the parish
☐ I/we am/are moving out of the parish