

CLOSING PRAYER:

~ A Prayer to Begin Lent ~

God, heavenly Father,
look upon me and hear my prayer
as I prepare to begin this holy Season of Lent.
By the good works you inspire,
help me to discipline my body
so as to be renewed in spirit.

Without You I can do nothing.
By Your Spirit help me to know what is right
and to be eager in doing your will.
Teach me to find new life through penance.
Keep me from sin, and help me live
by your commandment of love.
God of love, bring me back to you.
Send Your Spirit to make me strong
in faith and active in good works.
May my acts of penance bring me your forgiveness,
open my heart to your love,
and prepare me for the coming feast
of the Resurrection of Jesus.

Lord, throughout this Lenten Season,
keep me faithful to the Gospel of Jesus.
Nourish me with the body and blood of Jesus in the Eucharist.
Make me one with you in love and prayer.

Father, our source of life,
I reach out with joy to grasp your hand;
let me walk more readily in your ways.
Guide me in your gentle mercy,
for left to myself I cannot do your Will.

Father of love, source of all blessings,
help me to pass from my old life of sin
to the new life of grace.
May I live all my days in the glory of your Kingdom.
Amen.

CAMPUS MINISTRY OFFICE:

The Campus Ministry Office is located in **Our Lady Chapel**.
phone: [440] 473-3560. e-mail: jbcsc@ix.netcom.com

Our Lady Chapel



Our Lady Chapel is a Roman Catholic community founded in the love of the Father, centered in Christ, and rooted in the Holy Cross tenets of building family and embracing diversity. We are united in our journey of faith through prayer and sacrament, and we seek growth through the wisdom of the Holy Spirit in liturgy and outreach, while responding to the needs of humanity.

WELCOME TO THE INDOOR CHAPEL PICNIC:

Our annual Chapel Indoor Picnic is this weekend — **Sunday, February 7th**. The picnic will be held in the Commons from right after Mass until 1:15 PM. Chicken tenders or chicken breast, Macaroni and Cheese, Chicken-Tortilla Soup, Philly Cheese Steak, will be provided, as well as coffee and soft drinks. The rest will be pot luck. Come and enjoy family and friends. **Even if you have not pre-registered, join us for a fun filled several hours.**

LENTEN NOTES:

The season of Lent begins on Wednesday, February 10th. During this sacred time, each of us is called to spiritual growth — particularly through a turning away from sin. Lent is a time for “new beginnings” — a time to grow in our relationship with God and each other. There are 3 major spiritual practices during Lent to which Scripture calls us: **prayer, fasting, and almsgiving.**

—ASH WEDNESDAY:

Wednesday, February 10th. Mass schedule for Wednesday will be as follows:

9:20 AM [Upper-Middle School]

12:45 PM [Lower School]

5:30 PM [Regularly Scheduled Mass].

Ashes will be distributed at each of these Masses; all Masses will be in the main chapel. Please feel free to attend any of the Masses on this day which are convenient for you.

—LENTEN REGULATIONS:

Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are days of **fast** for all between the ages of eighteen and fifty-nine. Fasting means that one full meal for the day is allowed, along with two light meals [snacks]. No eating between meals. Those not included in these “ages” are encouraged to take upon themselves some aspects of the fast, whenever possible.

Ash Wednesday and All Fridays during Lent are days of **abstinence** from meat, for those who are fourteen and older. Again, those not included in these “ages” are encouraged to participate whenever possible.

**COUPLE'S RETREAT:**

Join us on Saturday, February 20th and share in this evening of prayer and reflection at Our Lady Chapel's annual **Couple's Retreat**. Most married couples with a family do not take enough time for themselves — their lives are focused on their children. Do yourself a favor, and take time for this evening together. The retreat is open to all married couples of the Chapel and Gilmour Communities. **The retreat will begin with Mass in Our Lady Chapel at 5 PM followed by dinner and discussion led by Fr. John in the Lennon Board Room, concluding no later than 9 PM.** Come even if you cannot make it in time for Mass; we would be glad to have you join us. **Cost for the evening is \$40 a couple.** If cost for the evening is a concern, please let Father John know. **So mark the date on your calendars and give yourself a treat in the Lord. Please RSVP to Patty at the Chapel Office at (440) 473-3560 or at szaniszlop@gilmour.org.**

**FAITH EDUCATION — FEBRUARY 7:**

Faith Education for this year continues. Our Sessions go from 8:45—9:45 AM, with the hope that our children would then **participate in our 10:00 AM Family Mass. Register your family for classes by contacting Patty in the Chapel Office [(440)-473-3560].** If you have any questions, please call Patty in the chapel office. Thank you for taking care of this important responsibility. **Dates for February and March: February 7-21-28**



2 and March 6-13.

PRAYER REQUESTS:

Jesus calls us to pray for one another. Please keep all these people in your prayers

PRAYERS FOR THE SICK:

- For Maria Teresa Carnevale who is undergoing treatment for cancer.
- For Ramon Ortega, who is critically ill following heart surgery.
- For Karen Bernardo who is recovering from serious heart surgery.
- For Bonnie O'Leary, Middle School Teacher, who is recovering from surgery.
- For Rod Nagy who is seriously ill.
- For Rob Solomon who is recovering from open heart surgery.
- For Eva Shea, aunt of lower school teacher, Theresa Stark, who is undergoing treatment for pancreatic cancer
- For Kathy Hronek who is recovering from cancer surgery.
- For David Carr, Jr. ['79], son of Gilmour trustees David and Carole Carr, who is undergoing treatment for blood clots.
- For Joseph Frantz ['75], brother of Mark ['65], David ['66], Roger ['69], and Peter ['78] Frantz, who is seriously ill.
- For Ann Ally, mother of former Gilmour teacher Deshia Joseph, who is under the care of hospice.
- For Marge Sheldon, friend of Judy Morgan, who is recovering from surgery.
- For Patty Marschalk, cousin of LS teacher, Theresa Stark, who is undergoing treatment for cancer.
- For Ed Carrigan, uncle of LS teacher, Theresa Stark, who is undergoing treatment for cancer.
- For Carol Yost who is undergoing treatment for cancer.
- For Vickie Norris, kitchen employee, who is recovering from serious heart surgery.
- For Kate Wilson, Niece of Brother Ken Kane, C.S.C., who is undergoing treatment for cancer.
- For Justin Tarr who is critically ill with brain cancer.
- For Bun Riley, who is recovering from surgery.
- For Jim Spicer who is undergoing treatment for brain and lung cancer.
- For John O'Brian who has been diagnosed with a serious form of cancer.
- For Bill Slattery ['77] who is undergoing treatment for cancer.
- For John Burkey, uncle of Rachel Burkey, member of music ministry, who is undergoing treatment for cancer.
- For Annie Trivassos who is undergoing treatment for cancer.
- For Nicholas Zanella., who is undergoing medical treatment
- For Jan Botek, wife of Fred, mother of Fred ['85], grandmother of Matthew ['14], Jonathan ['17] and Daniel ['21] Botek, who is undergoing treatment for dementia.
- For Teddy Prusock, nephew of Lower School associate, Nina Prusock, who is undergoing neurological testing.
- For Kay Yunker, aunt of Mary Schmidt, great-aunt of Maggie Schmidt ['12] who is under the care of hospice.

2015 CONTRIBUTION STATEMENTS: If you would like a copy of your 2015 Contributions to Our Lady Chapel, please call the chapel office [440-473-3560]

and we will be glad to send it out to you. Since many have their own records and do not need to receive this statement, we have found that this is much more economical for us — as good stewards, we are trying to cut postage expenses from a mass mailing. Let us know if you need the statement sent to you and we will be glad to get it to you. Thanks for your understanding.

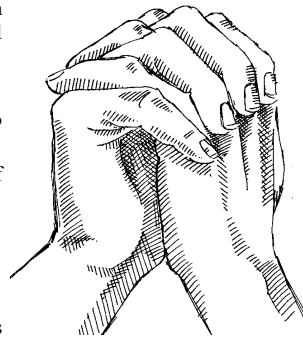


PRAYER REQUESTS:

Jesus calls us to pray for one another. Please keep all these people in your prayers.

PRAYERS FOR THE SICK:

- For Viola Saunders, mother of Lower School Head of School, Yvonne Saunders, who is recovering from surgery.
- For Elaine Willey, sister of Father John, who are undergoing medical testing.
- For Stephen Ungrady, father of Emily [*19], who is recovering from a stroke
- For Christina Parrilla, sister of Brother Carlos Parrilla, C.S.C., who is recovering from kidney transplant surgery
- For MaryAnn Rachuba, mother-in-law of Gilmour instructor, John Overman, grandmother of Michael [*22] and Jack [*25] Overman, who is ill.
- For Vic Sopko who is recovering from heart surgery.
- For Jim Virant, grandfather of Noah Virant [*20], who is undergoing treatment for cancer.
- For Todd King [*87], brother of Christie [*91] King, who is undergoing treatment for mirocondra
- For John DiCillo, husband of long-time Gilmour teacher, Bonnie, father of John [*83], David [*84], Dawn [*86] and Daniel [*88] DiCillo, who is seriously ill with lymphoma.
- For Jenny Blender, who is undergoing treatment for cancer.
- For Dorothy Kazel, mother of Daniel [*86] and Gilmour counselor, Jamie, who is undergoing treatment for cancer..
- For Mark LaCasse, brother of Upper School Associate, Linda Wheeler, uncle of Molly [*06] Wheeler, who is undergoing treatment for cancer.
- For Charles Babbush, father of Jeffrey [*83] who is ill.
- For Ali Priest, who is undergoing treatment for a rare muscular disease.
- For Sue Nyberg, godmother of Katie Leavitt, who is seriously ill with cancer.
- For Ryan Berger [*15], brother of Cameron [*17] who is recovering from injuries sustained in an accident.
- For Drew Franco, son of Brian [*90], nephew of Jeff [*88] and Kristin [*94] Kirkpatrick, who is struggling with a seizure disorder.
- For Michael Palumbo, father of Michael [*14], Marisa [*15], and former Gilmour student, Christian, who is undergoing medical treatment
- For Colleen Lowman, grandmother of Religion instructor, Rachel Burkey, who is seriously ill.
- For Dennis Kavran, father of Dennis [*86] and Jennifer [*95], grandfather of Adam [*14] and Madeleine [*16] Miller, who is undergoing further treatment for cancer.
- For Donna Farkas who is undergoing treatment for cancer.
- For Lexi Pappadakes, who is undergoing treatment for complications from surgery..
- For Rosemarie Lemieux who is ill.
- For Robert Heltzel [*65], father of Jennifer [*91] and Kathleen [*93] Heltzel, who is recovering from surgery
- For Matt Barry [*13], brother of Tim [*12], who continues treatment for cancer.
- For Maria Ricci, friend of Linda McGraw, who is ill.
- For Jeff Warner, brother of Denise Calabrese, who is undergoing treatment resulting from a stroke and seizure.
- For Janice Feenstra, sister of Lisa Habe, aunt of Jack [*19] and Will [*20] Habe who is undergoing treatment for cancer.
- For Phylis McGinley, grandmother of Middle school Head of School, Elizabeth Edmondson, great-grandmother of Mollie [*21] and Abigail [*23] Edmondson, who is seriously ill.
- For Karen Wanders, mother of upper school Head of School, Jonathan Wanders, who continues in treatment and rehabilitation
- For Betty Herten, aunt of Hope [*13] and James [*15] Herten, who is undergoing treatment for leukemia.



MEN’S RETREAT — MARCH 5:

All men of Our Lady Chapel and Gilmour Academy and their guests are invited to join us for the Annual Men's Spring Retreat on **Thursday, March 3rd**. The retreat will begin with **Mass in Our Lady Chapel at 5:30 PM** followed by a hearty **dinner and discussion in the Lennon Board Room**. Father John will facilitate the evening of conversation and reflection. **Cost for the retreat is \$20.** [Please know that ability to pay for the retreat is not a condition for attendance]. If you cannot make it for Mass or for dinner, you are still welcome to attend the evening of spiritual conversation — come when you are able. . Mark the date on your calendars and give yourself a treat in the Lord. **Sign up on the retreat sheet located on the easel in the narthex of Our Lady Chapel or contact Patty in the Chapel Office (440) 473-3560 or szaniszlop@gilmour.org**



SCHEDULE FOR THE WEEK:

Sunday, February 7: 5 th Week in Ordinary Time	10:00 AM
Monday, February 8:	5:30 PM [Eucharistic Chapel]
Tuesday, February 9: Presentation of Jesus	5:30 PM [Eucharistic Chapel]
Wednesday, February 10: Ash Wednesday	9:20 AM [Upper-Middle] 12:45 PM [Lower School] 5:30 PM [Community]
Thursday, February 11:	5:30 PM [Eucharistic Chapel]
Friday, February 12: St. Agatha	5:30 PM [Eucharistic Chapel]
Saturday, February 13: 1 st Week in Lent	5:00 PM
Sunday, February 14: 1 st Week in Lent	10:00 AM

UPCOMING CHAPE ACTIVITIES:

February 7 -----	Faith Education Session #15 Chapel Indoor Picnic	8:45 AM—9:45 AM 11:15 AM—1:30 PM
February 10 -----	Upper-Middle School Mass Lower School Mass Community Mass for Ash Wednesday	9:20 AM 12:45 PM 5:30 PM
February 12 -----	Women’s Club Fish Fry	5:00 PM—8:00 PM
February 14 -----	LifeTeen meeting	11:30 AM—1:00 PM
February 16 -----	Our Lady Chapel Council Meeting	6:15 PM—7:30 PM

REFLECTION ON THE THEME FOR THE WEEK:

I just turned off my iPad, and it is quiet now here in my room. My receiver is not electrically active. Yet I know that the electronic waves are continuing and perhaps passing right through me, but I am not receiving them. Have you ever had a night where you got very little sleep? The next day you feel like a zombie, sometimes dozing off while sitting a work or in class — or maybe even while walking around. You begin to wonder if you are really awake — or just kind of not totally there. When we are in this condition, we miss much of what is going on around us — our receiver is down.

How often are you aware of the person of God who surrounds you? God is waving all around us, and sometimes we are tuned in and enlivened by that interior resonating. The wonderful reality is that God speaks to us according to our individual way of listening. God gets our attention in very special ways — they are personal to each individual. We can prepare for our next liturgy by practicing our listening skills. There might be some “wavings” that we are missing. We would not want to miss what is good for us to hear.

We might call this weekend: “Excuse Me Sunday”. We begin with the call of the Prophet Isaiah [6:1-8]. Isaiah in in the midst of a vision — he is standing in the “holy of Holies”, when something special happens. He sees the Lord God sitting on His throne in Heaven. Amid the holy smoke and terrifying chanting of the attendants at the throne, Isaiah declares his unworthiness and unclean state to be seen before the Holy One. He makes the assumption that he is going to be condemned.

But the opposite happens. The fire-carrying spirits descend with a burning coal and touch his unclean lips. He hears their words that his lips are clean, and then he hears the Lord ask whether or not there is anybody whom the Lord can send. This seems to be a simple announcement, and so Isaiah responds that he is available — but he didn’t ask “what he was being sent for”.

What Isaiah will learn later is that his mission is challenging. Isaiah will admit that he lives among people who, like him, have “unclean lips”. He is to be missioned to make devastating pronouncements to Israel — “Make the ears of this people fat, its ears dull; shut its eyes, so that it will not see with its eyes, hear with its ears, understand with its heart, and be converted and healed” [Isaiah 6:10]. Isaiah is going to have to say hard things to Israel — “until the towns have been laid wasted and deserted, houses left untended, country sides made desolate, and the Lord drives the people out” [6:11-12]. Isaiah, after hearing this, would feel even more the “woe is me” that he spoke while standing within the vision of God.

Peter, too, has a very good excuse in Luke’s Gospel [5:1-11]. He has been fishing with his friends and has caught nothing. Jesus is presented as knowing where the fish are to be had, and so Peter takes the bait and becomes hooked. When Peter sees how great the catch of fish was, he kneels down before Jesus and states his truth — that he is a sinful man in the presence of a holy man. Jesus, it is important to note, does not deny Peter’s truth. Rather, in a manner to which Peter will become accustomed, Jesus invites Peter to follow Him. As his following Jesus unfolds, Peter will find out even more clearly just how sinful he is, and how compassionate Jesus is.

It does seem that our human excuses do not work — especially those of being unworthy, unclear, un-callable. Other prophets of the Hebrew Scriptures and others from the Christian Scriptures have had similar negative or puzzling responses to God’s call and intimacy. Our Blessed Mother had a real good one when invited to be the mother of Jesus; she was not married. Perhaps, as with Isaiah, intimacy brings out our best and our worst. In relationship with God, our worst brings out God’s merciful best.

There are glaring hard lights and glowing soft lights. A candle is such a soft, warm display. The

**PRAYER REQUESTS:**

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FOR THE DECEASED:

- For Irma Iorio.
- For Jack Kilbane, cousin of Brother Robert Lavelle, C.S.C.
- For Kaitlin Skiles.
- For Mary Cser
- For Brother Jean-Jacques Dieges, C.S.C.
- For Brother Francis Kjeldgaard, C.S.C.
- For Norman Smoler
- For Mary Goode, aunt of Brother Emmanuel Goode, C.S.C.
- For Brother Carroll Posey, C.S.C.
- For Jerry Moore.
- For Irma Hasken, sister of Brother Walter Gluhm, C.S.C.
- For James Mooney [*54]
- For Charles Grisanti
- For John Bondra, father of softball coach, Tony Bondra.
- For Sally Leaman
- For Tim Alexander.
- For Brother Joseph Berg, C.S.C.

PRAYERS FOR OTHERS:

- For an end to violence in our society.
- For the families who are grieving the loss of loved ones.
- For an end to human trafficking.
- For the unemployed.
- For those who struggle with family relationships.
- For a greater respect for human life, from the moment of conception until natural death.
- For all caregivers.
- For a special intention.
- For all service men and women serving our country, and for their families.

BRINGING UP THE OFFERTORY GIFTS:

Would you and your family or group like to bring up the gifts at the offertory at Mass? In the past, our Council people have invited people to bring up the gifts, and we have found that many — if not most — of you like to be asked. But in using this method, we may be leaving people out, especially if it is done as a “last minute item”. So, we are posting a sign-up sheet on the Easel in the narthex of the chapel. **If you or your family or group would like to bring up the gifts on a certain Saturday or Sunday — or if you are open to doing this at any time — please call the chapel office [440-473-3560].** We look forward to opening this beautiful experience to all in our community.



PAUL AND THE RESURRECTION OF JESUS:

Paul's first letter to the Church at Corinth contains the earliest account of Jesus' post-resurrection appearances that we possess, predating our earliest gospel narratives by more than ten years. Though scholars constantly study and comment on it, most Christians have little familiarity with it. Usually we combine the different — often contradictory — apparition passages, and create a unified account of our own making, leaving out whatever doesn't fit into our personal narrative. But if we zero in on what Paul says, we surface some interesting traditions [1 Corinthians 15:1-11]. Though later gospel accounts will refer to the risen Jesus "appearing to Cephas, then to the Twelve," this is the only place which speaks about Jesus "appearing to more than five hundred brothers and sisters at once." It also mentions a unique appearance to James.

It's clear that when we join Paul's letter to the Church at Corinth with the four gospels, we have at least a half dozen different versions of what happened at the tomb on Easter Sunday morning, and during the next few days or weeks. If our faith in the risen Jesus is rooted only in the narratives of the gospels, we're in trouble. They'd never stand up in a court of law.

That's why Paul's reference to his own encounter with this "new creation" is the most important part of what he wrote — "Last of all, as to one born abnormally, he appeared to me." If Jesus hadn't personally appeared to the Apostle, the other apparitions he lists would not have been significant.

It's essential to our faith to have had some personal experience of the risen Jesus. Though, as we know from Paul's letters and the gospels, the early Christian community was convinced that the "normal" way to achieve that experience was by participating in the Eucharist, followers of Jesus also discovered that they could encounter the Christ in quite unexpected situations.

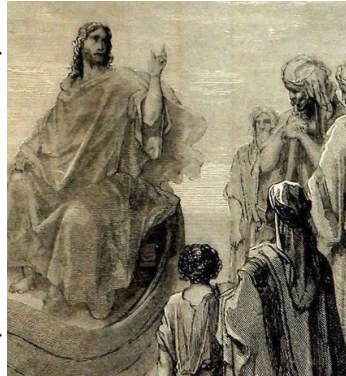
Paul's experience on the road to Damascus [see Acts 9] provides a classic example of such an encounter. Narrated three times in the Acts of the Apostles [see Acts 9, 22, and 26], Paul's meeting with the risen Jesus not only was unexpected — it ran completely counter to "form." The Apostle wasn't traveling to the Syrian capital to go shopping or visit some friends — he was going there to persecute followers of Jesus. When the Jesus of faith appeared to him, he was an active enemy of that faith! Obviously the condition of one's soul or mind is never a prerequisite for encountering the risen Jesus.

The prophet Isaiah discovered this also [Isaiah 6:1-8]. Isaiah first tries to sidestep the Lord's call by pointing out: "I am a man of unclean lips, living among a people of unclean lips" — in other words, the young man wonders: "How can I be your mouthpiece, proclaiming your holy oracles, when unholy words usually come from my mouth?" To Isaiah's surprise, God not only calls, God also makes carrying out that call a possibility.

It's important to note that many Lucan scholars regard the incident with Peter [Luke 5:1-11] as a post-resurrection event which the evangelist — for theological reasons — has read back into Jesus' historical ministry. We probably see a more chronologically correct narrative in John 21. If that's correct, then Simon is relating to the risen Jesus — not the historical Jesus. And it's in encountering the risen Jesus that this frustrated fisherman is led to say: "Depart from me, Lord, for I a sinful man." Yet that declaration of sinfulness doesn't stop Jesus from calling Simon "to catch people" instead of fish.

The Scripture Readings for this 5th Week in Ordinary Time certainly fly in the face of the non-biblical belief that we have a better chance of surfacing the risen Jesus after we come out of the confessional than before we go into the confessional.

—taken from the writings of Father Roger Karban, which appear on the internet



closer one gets to the light, certain things will be revealed which remain hidden when at a distance. The Christian challenge is whether or not the light of Christ is harsh or gentle. To be honest, it is usually defined by how one looks at her/him-self. If we have high expectations of our responses to God, we will most likely believe that God has equally high or higher expectations of ourselves. If so, then the candle becomes a spotlight.

Peter expects his excuse will allow him to return to his fish-finding. Perhaps he projected on to Jesus what he felt about himself — especially after having caught nothing all night. In the light of such holy goodness, Peter found himself worse off than he had thought. The Light projects Himself into and around Peter and his self-image. Peter leaves everything to follow Jesus — except his truth which he will experience even more accurately, but in time, more gently.

—edited from the writings of Father Larry Gillick, S.J., which appear on the internet

FISH FRY:

The Gilmour Academy Women's Club will host its annual Lenten Fish Fry, **Friday, February 12th**, from **5:00 PM — 8:00 PM** in the **Gilmour Academy Commons**. Bring your family and friends. Choice of baked tilapia, fried cod planks, salad, coleslaw, hush puppies, pierogis, macaroni and cheese, New England Clam Chowder, apple cobbler, coffee and beverages, and a wonderful ice cream sundae bar. The price — just **\$12 for adults, \$6 for students, \$5 for children 5-12, children under 5 are free. Take Outs are available.** In addition, there are going to be a 50/50 raffle and a Chinese Auction. Join us for the best fish fry in town!!!

**CLEAN OUT THOSE CLOSETS AND SERVE OTHERS:**

Winter is here — another time to once again clean out the closets. Clothing that no longer fits, or has been replaced by new items, can become great items for others. Always remember the words of Jesus: "The poor you shall always have with you" [Matthew 26:11]. Please continue to bring your **gently used** men's, women's and children's clothing to the Lennon Board Room, or place it in the cedar chest which is located in the Chapel narthex [just press the key button to open the chest]. We partner with Fatima Center to help provide clothing for general use. Also, **business work clothing for this season is especially needed. The Fatima Center helps men and women prepare for job interviews.** If you have some of these items, this would be a good time to send them along. Clothing for all seasons is accepted, but please try to keep in mind that storage facilities are limited at Fatima — so it would help if you could focus on winter items at this time. You may pick up a tax form when you drop off the clothing here at Our Lady Chapel — there are forms in the cedar chest. Clothing may be brought on the weekend, or during the week. Thank you. **If you have any questions, please contact Patty in the chapel office [440-473-3560].**

**WARM HANDS, WARM HEARTS:**

Did you know that a great deal of the donations made by people go to serve women and children? One of the greatest needs of shelters during this time of year is for gloves. In an attempt to reach out to all our brothers whose lives take them to homeless shelters and the streets and hidden places of our city, **we are collecting men's gloves — new or gently used. Just place them in the container which is located on the floor by the windows in the narthex of the chapel.** We will take care of getting them to those who are in need. Thank you for your generosity.

**WISDOM AND FAITH:**

"Thousands of candles can be lighted from a single candle, and the life of the candle will not be shortened. Happiness never decreases by being shared."

—Buddha

IS THIS STORY ABOUT YOU?

The New Yorker magazine ran a wonderful cartoon of a psychiatrist and his patient. The caption has the psychiatrist saying to his female patient: “Madam, please do not get angry. I’m only trying to save you money. You should feel guilty.” The late Archbishop Fulton Sheen said that instead of becoming penitents, many of us become patients. The Lake of Galilee possesses a picture postcard beauty. If you were to rent a helicopter to do a fly-over, you would see a pear-shaped body of water about thirteen miles long and eight miles wide. It enjoys almost a tropical climate. Today, Jewish teens spend many hours water-skiing on the water’s surface. In the time of Jesus, there were ten prosperous towns situated around the lake. Almost all of those people made their living from the waters in front of them. Thus, one gets an idea of how rich the lake was in fish. This point makes it difficult to understand how the professional fisherman Peter and his companions had come up empty the night before. All they had caught were bad colds, a pair of old sneakers, some empty bottles, and crabs dead from advanced old age.

In Luke’s Gospel [5:1-11] Jesus finds Peter and his crew cleaning their nets on the shore; it is morning, and the night has been long. At the same time, Jesus was well into His long workday. He was preaching to huge crowds on the beach. Because of Cana and several other miracles — and because of his profound speaking ability — Jesus had become a reluctant celebrity. The village synagogues were no longer large enough to hold the people anxious to hear Him, so He preached on the beaches. The Teacher was not bound to old methods — he was willing to try new ways of reaching people. It is like the old saying: “if the mountain won’t come to Jesus, He would go to the mountain.” The mob was so eager to hear Jesus; they were pushing Him into the lake for an unwanted swim.



When was the last time you fought for “ringside seats” to hear Jesus?

Quickly the Nazarene jumped into the high bow of Peter’s large boat drawn up on the sand — the bow became His pulpit. Once His instruction was finished, He ordered Peter to cast off. Before the miracle catch, Peter addressed the Christ as Master — he was just an interesting rabbi, but nothing more. But then the nets were dragged into the boat overflowing with fish.

At that point, Luke stresses Peter was no longer on his feet but on his knees. And this time he called Jesus Lord. It was not that Peter was an incisive theologian. Rather, like all his fellow Jews, he believed that anyone who possessed control over the waters also possessed divinity — such a man had to be the Messiah. Notice too what Peter says — “I am a sinful man.” *The Wall Street Journal* carried an article that posed the question: “When was the last time you had a good conversation about sin?” Most of us would have to reply that we no longer have such discussions. We have become sinless. If so, one should not wonder why the world is in the state it is.

Here’s some things to think about. In the home Christianity is kindness; in business it’s honesty; in society it’s courtesy; in work it’s fairness; to the unfortunate it’s sympathy; to the weak it’s help; to the evil it’s resistance. When you hear someone talking about sin, do you shrug and conclude he or she is speaking about someone else? If your answer is “yes”, then reflect on *The New Yorker* cartoon. Perhaps you should feel guilty. Are you Fulton Sheen’s penitent or patient? When was the last time you received the Sacrament of Reconciliation?

—taken from the writings of Father James Gilhooley, which appear on the internet.

HOW TRUE:

When you do things from your soul, you feel a river moving in you — a joy.

of that.

Terrorist attacks, like the recent ones in Paris and Mali, call for more, not less, sympathy for true Muslims. It’s time to establish a greater solidarity with Islam, notwithstanding extremist terrorism. We are both part of the same family — we have the same God, suffer the same anxieties, are subject to the same mortality, and will share the same heaven. Muslims more than ever need our understanding, sympathy, support, and fellowship in faith.

Christian de Cherge, the Trappist monk who was martyred by Islamic terrorists in Algeria in 1996, wrote a remarkable letter to his family on France shortly before he died. Well aware that he had a good chance of being killed by Islamic terrorists, he shared with his family that, should this happen, they should know that he had already forgiven his killers and that he foresaw himself and them, his killers, in the same heaven, playing together under God’s gaze, a gaze that lovingly takes in all of God’s children, Muslims no less than Christians.

—taken from the writings of Father Ronald Rolheiser, O.M.I., which appear on the internet

ATTENDANCE:

If you attend Mass regularly here at Our Lady Chapel, it would be helpful if you filled out a form [name, address, phone number, children, etc.] indicating this fact, if you have not already done so. Such information not only helps us to know who is attending Our Lady Chapel; it also is of great assistance to us in record keeping [for our friend, the IRS] of any contributions which you may make.

ENVELOPES:

- When you need a **new supply** of envelopes, please feel free to take a supply of them from the table in the vestibule, or call Father John at the Campus Ministry Office [473-3560].
- When you **use** your envelope, please make sure that **your number** is on it. If you need to know your number, please call the Campus Ministry Office. Thanks.

WEEKLY OFFERING:

Baskets will be passed during the “Preparation Rite” and will be brought to the altar as part of the Offerings to help offset chapel daily operating expenses. When you choose to use the envelopes, your donations to Our Lady Chapel will be acknowledged so that you have a record for the IRS.

Total Offerings: Saturday [1/30/16] ----- \$ 2,623.00

Total Offerings: Sunday [1/31/16] ----- \$ 886.00

DRESSES FOR HONDURAS:

One of the nurses in our Gilmour Clinic is involved in a **dressmaking project** for the children of Honduras. They have devised a method of making sundresses out of common pillowcases, and then adorning them with other items for decoration. And that is where you come in. **If you have any old buttons, ribbon, ric-rac, lace or other sewing trim**, please bring them in. The group would like to collect these items to help decorate the dresses they are working on. This is an on-going project; the dresses will be sent to Honduras every time there is a mission trip. The next trip is scheduled for March of 2016. There is a **basket in the narthex of the Chapel** to collect any donations you may have. Thank you for your help!

**REMEMBER:**

God is not done with you yet. Every new day brings new opportunities and offers the Master Sculptor another chance to chisel away those rough edges.

OUR MUSLIM BROTHERS AND SISTERS:

This is not a good time to be a Muslim in the Western world. As the violence perpetrated by radical Islamic groups such as ISIS, Al Qaeda, and Boko Haram becomes more and more prevalent, huge numbers of people are becoming paranoid about — and even openly hostile towards — the Islam religion, seeing all Muslims as a threat. Popular opinion more and more blames the Moslem religion itself for that violence, suggesting that there is something inherent in Islam itself that's responsible for this kind of violence. That equation needs to be challenged — both in the name of truth and in the name of what's best in us as Christians.

First of all, it's untrue. Painting all Muslims with the same brush is like painting all Christians with the same brush — akin to looking at the most depraved man who calls himself a Christian and saying: "That's Christians for you! They're all the same!" Second, it's also unfair. Islamic militants no more speak for Islam than Hitler speaks for Christianity — and that comparison isn't idly chosen. Finally, such an equation misleads our sympathy. The first victim of Islamic terrorism is Islam itself — namely, authentic God-fearing Muslims — re the first victims of this violence.

When we look at the history of any terrorist Islamic group such as ISIS or Al-Qaeda, we see that it first establishes itself by terrorizing and killing thousands of its own people, honest, God-fearing Muslims — and it goes on killing them. ISIS, Al-Qaeda, and Boko Haram have killed thousands more Muslims than they have killed Christians or persons of any other religion. While their ultimate target may well be the secularized, Christian West, their ultimate real war is against true Islam.

Moreover the victims of Islamic terrorists are not just the thousands of moderate Muslims who have been direct victims of their violence and killings, but also all other Muslims who are now painted with the same brush and negatively judged in both their religiosity and their sincerity. Whenever Islamic terrorists perpetrate an act of violence, its victims are not just those who die, are injured, or who lose loved ones — it's also all true Muslims, particularly those living in the West because they are now viewed through the eyes of suspicion, fear, and hatred.

But the Muslim religion is not to blame here. There is nothing inherent in either the Koran or in Islam itself that morally or religiously undergirds this kind of violence. We would holler "unfair" if someone were to say that what happened during the Inquisition is inherent in the Gospels. We owe Islam the same judgment. One of the great students of World Religions, the renowned Houston Smith, submits that we should always judge a religion by its best expressions — by its saints and graced-history — rather than by its psychopaths and aberrations. I hope that others offer us, Christians, this courtesy. Hitler was somehow a product of the Christian West, as was Mother Teresa. Houston Smith's point is that the latter, not the former, is a truer basis for judging Christianity. We owe our Islamic brothers and sisters the same courtesy.

And that's more a recognition of the truth than a courtesy. The word "Islam/Muslim" has its origins in the word "peace", and that connotation, along with the concept of "surrender to God," constitutes the essence of what it means to be a Muslim. And for more than 90% of Muslims in the world, that is exactly what it means to be a Muslim — namely, to be a man or woman of peace who has surrendered to God and who now tries to live a life that is centered on faith, prayer, responsibility, and hospitality. Any interpretation of Islam by a radicalized group that gives divine sanction to terrorist violence is false and belies Islam. Islamic extremists don't speak for God, Mohammed, Islam, or for what it means to surrender in faith, but only for a self-serving ideology, and true Muslims are, in the end, the real victims



THE UNIVERSAL CALL TO HOLINESS:

In Luke's Gospel [5:1-11], an experienced, but frustrated fisherman, reluctantly takes the advice of a carpenter from Nazareth and has an amazing catch that fills his boat and the boat of his partners as well. When the fisherman — Simon Peter — saw this, he fell at the feet of Jesus — the carpenter turned itinerate preacher — saying: "Depart from me, Lord, for I am a sinful man." Jesus tells Simon not to be afraid — "from now on you will be catching people." When Simon and his business partners, James and John, the sons of Zebedee, got their boats ashore, they left their livelihood and their families and followed Jesus.

Jesus attracted many other disciples by the power of his personality, his teaching, and his wondrous deeds. Some — like Peter — left everything to follow him. But many others — Mary, Martha and Lazarus for example — stayed at home and kept their jobs, putting the example and teaching of Jesus into practice in their daily lives. Throughout history, there has been a tendency to exalt the disciples who renounce ordinary life in the world, while relegating the stay at home disciples to a secondary status. In effect, this meant restricting the word "vocation" — and the call to holiness to priests and nuns. The Second Vatican Council [1962-1965] reversed this trend by teaching that all the baptized have a vocation, all are responsible for building up the Body of Christ and spreading the reign of God in the world, and all are called to holiness. There are no second class members of the Church.

Many Catholics have grown spiritually and became more effective disciples by appropriating the Vatican II teaching on the common vocation to holiness. Abraham, a cradle Catholic, who for a good part of his adult life was content to let the pastor run the parish, took some classes on Vatican II and is now very active in his parish, serving on the finance council and the liturgy committee. Sarah, a dedicated stay at home mother of three, who sometimes felt inadequate because she did not have a paying job outside the home, became far more comfortable with her chosen role when she thought of it as a true vocation which is her path to holiness. Isaac, a talented marketing grad student, who worried that pursuing a career in the business world was selling out the consumerist culture, heard a homily on the spirituality of work that convinced him that he could, in good conscience, take a job with a marketing firm, and use it as a way of living his faith and contributing to the common good. Rebecca, a single mother, who felt sort of useless after her two children left home and started their own families, came to see that she had a second vocation as a grandmother who could still do a lot of good.

What does the universal call to holiness mean to you and how can you respond more wholeheartedly?
—taken from the writings of Father Jim Bacik which appear on the internet

SERVING THE LORD IN THE POOR:

For the past year, our teens have been volunteering at **Our Savior Lutheran Church Food Pantry** [located right across the street from the chapel]. The Pantry is open on the **third Saturday of every month from 11:00 AM – 1:30 or 2:00 PM**. Our Savior Lutheran's Food Pantry was formed to serve those in emergency situations and/or with on-going need in the cities of Mayfield Heights, Mayfield Village, Highland Heights and Gates Mills. The Food Pantry respects social and cultural diversity and upholds the worth and dignity of those it serves. All those in the area with need will be served equally, as supplies allow. The food pantry is a member of the Greater Cleveland Food Bank. During the course of the past year, the food pantry at Our Savior Lutheran Church served an average of 141 households each time. Our teens have loved this ministry and have been very faithful to it. **We would now like to open this ministry up to our entire Chapel Community. If you would like to help on any given third Saturday, please call Patty at the chapel office [440-473-3560] to let us know that you are going to volunteer, or email Elina Gurney at gurney.oh@gmail.com.**



To be saints is not a privilege for the few, but a vocation for everyone.

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PUT OUT INTO THE DEEP:

Luke's Gospel account for this 5th Week in Ordinary time shows Jesus standing in a boat teaching the crowds [Luke 5:1-11]. Then Jesus turns to Peter and commanded him to "launch out into the deep". Peter protests. He is tired having been up all night fishing without result and now he has just been listening to a long instruction by Jesus. The nets were still unwashed and the disciples were surely very weary.

Jesus says nothing in reply to Peter's objections, and so Peter says with a heavy heart: "If you say so, we will pay out the nets." And the catch they made was so remarkable that they had to call the other boats to help them. Peter falls to his knees and makes his profession of faith — "Leave me Lord, for I am a sinful man." Jesus then informs them that they will from now on be catching people — and seemingly without hesitation they left everything and followed him.

It is a truly wonderful and fascinating story and there are many lessons for us in it.

One lesson is surely that God chooses our weak moments to show what he can do. Peter and the other fishermen were down on their luck; they were exhausted, and somewhat exasperated when Jesus appeared on the scene.

They already knew Jesus, and had experienced his teaching and healing powers. Jesus had visited Peter's home and cured his mother-in-law [see Luke 4:38-39]. But while Peter — and his companions — knew that they were friends with Jesus, they certainly did not expect that Jesus would choose them to be his closest disciples — they didn't expect to be asked to leave everything to follow Jesus.

That's a bit like us. We too are disciples of Jesus; over a period of many years we have gone to Mass, listened to his teaching, and from time to time have experienced his remarkable works. But we tend not to expect him to have any special task in store for us. We believe that we are very small cogs in God's great wheel. We certainly don't think that we are key players in the divine plan for the conversion of the world — we think that God chooses other people for big tasks. We tend to feel that we are unworthy, and just like Peter we often say: "Leave me Lord for I am sinful."

But God does not think like us, and he doesn't leave us alone. As Cardinal Newman said: "God chose us to do some definite service." God does have something in mind for each one of us — some definite task. We are a crucial part of his plan for the world. And at the appropriate time we will know what it is that he wants of us. He will give us a sign — just like he gave Peter and his friends a sign with that remarkable catch of fish.

The day will come and on that day we will just know what it is he wants us to do — it will be made clear. It will be like the clue in a cryptic crossword. We look at the words for ages and it doesn't make any sense at all. Then suddenly out of the blue comes a moment of insight, and the answer will be so obvious that we can't understand how we didn't see it all along!

Peter instinctively knows that what Jesus wants in us is holiness — that is the meaning of his words "Leave me Lord, for I am a sinful man." Yes, Jesus does want holiness, but lack of it won't stop him from achieving what he wants. For by the very act of carrying out our mission we will inevitably acquire holiness.

We might feel that we are far from reaching that goal of holiness, but it is something we need to aim at. If we want to live in heaven with God then we had better start acquiring holiness because that's what life is like in heaven. God is holy, and if we are to become like him then we too will have to become holy.

Peter's words — "Leave me Lord, for I am a sinful man" — should not lead us to think that Peter wasn't already very holy. The lives of the saints demonstrate that the holier you get, the more conscious



Do you feel deserted by God? You are not. God is never closer to you than when you need him the most. Remember, the miracle of his love is that there are billions of people in the world, and each one is loved by God as an only child. God loves you and he loves me as though we are the only one's he ever created. We can go on, we can do it, with God's help. And his help is there.

The angel took an ember from the fire and purified Isaiah's lips. That had to hurt. Perhaps it does hurt to let God take control of our lives, but it is a good hurt. All that we do for the sake of our Divine Lover and his Kingdom is worth the effort and sacrifice. The gift of ourselves is little in comparison to the gift of Jesus on the cross. But it is still a valid and worthy gift as we complete our role in the battle of and for the Kingdom of God. I can't do it. Yes I can. I can do all things in him who strengthens me [see Philippians 4:13].

—taken from the writings of Father Joseph Pellegrino which appear on the internet

NO WHERE TO GO BUT UP:

We are sinners called to sainthood. We understand love is a decision — and ultimately a charisma, a grace, a gift from God. Isaiah, Paul and Peter show us why we need that gift of grace. Isaiah says: "Woe is me, I am doomed! I am a man of unclean lips, living with a people of unclean lips" [Isaiah 6:1-8]. You and I belong to a fallen race. For sure, we humans can boast of amazing accomplishments — for example, in literature, science, music and architecture. Yet when you look at our history, it's not a pretty picture. This coming July — the date of World Youth Day — many people will visit the Auschwitz Concentration Camp — that terrible icon of evil — as part of their pilgrimage to Poland. Unfortunately it's only one of many instances of demonic cruelty. And we know evil exists also on a small scale in our neighborhoods, and in our families — and let's be honest — in our own hearts — "I am a man of unclean lips, living with a people of unclean lips." We have a theological word for this matter of belonging to fallen race — original sin. Isaiah was not the only one recognizing the pervasiveness of sin. Peter says to Jesus: "Depart from me, Lord, for I am a sinful man" [Luke 5:1-11]. And because of his sinful, misguided past, St. Paul sees himself as the "least of the apostles — unfit to be called an apostle" [1 Corinthians 15:1-11].

Some people imagine that the recognition of sin is depressing and negative. Not so. St. Paul says: "where sin abounds, grace superabounds" [see Romans 5:20]. God can take the worst sinner and make him or her the greatest saint. God did it with Paul — and he does it with Peter. Jesus says to him: "Do not be afraid. From now on you will be a fisher of people." And for Isaiah, God takes a burning coal from the altar and touches his lips — "Your wickedness is removed, your sin purged." We are sinners cleansed and elevated by God. Martin Luther described the Christian as "simul justus et peccator" — at once a sinner and justified. Shortly after his election, people asked Pope Francis: "Who is Jorge Bergoglio?" He didn't say: "I'm a cardinal from Argentina." He didn't say: "I'm the first South American to become pope." No, he simply says: "I am a sinner."

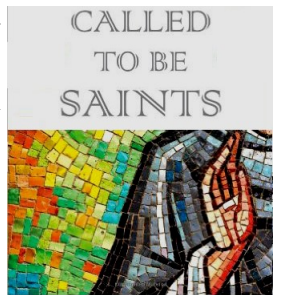
When we recognize that reality, we have nowhere to go but up. We will see during the upcoming season of Lent. This Wednesday we receive ashes with the words: "Repent and believe in the Gospel." The 1st Week in Lent this year begins with "Valentine's Day". This gives us a good opportunity to remember what the word "love" really means. Do not miss it.

If Pope Francis can identify himself as a sinner, what's stopping you and me? Once we say that, we have nowhere to go but up. Maybe you won't be pope, but you can and will be a saint. We are sinners that God calls to sainthood. I am a sinner, but by God's grace I can make a new beginning.

—taken from the writings of Father Phil Bloom., which appear on the internet.

WISE WORDS:

Life is not the amount of breaths you take; it's the moments that take your breath away.



I CAN'T DO THIS — ALONE:

In the Scripture Readings for this 5th Week in Ordinary Time, we meet Isaiah, Paul and Peter. All three are chosen by God. Each regrets that he is too human and too sinful to fulfill God's choice. But God makes up for what they lack. Isaiah says: "How can I, a man of unclean lips living among people of unclean lips, proclaim the Lord [Isaiah 6:1-8]. Paul adds that he was called even though he had persecuted the Church. He is the very least of the apostles, but by the grace of God, still an apostle [1 Corinthians 15:1-11]. Peter is quite aware of his humanity. He is a fisherman without out any education. He is stubborn. He is a bit of a braggart. He lacks courage. But God still calls him and gives him the ability to be the greatest and first of the apostles.

"I can't do this." "I can't do this anymore." A young woman has said this many times as she is dealing with the stress of her first baby who suffers from cholera. An elderly man says this as he is dealing with the challenges of chemotherapy. A young widow says this when two years after the tragedy of her husband's death she still questions her life. A husband says this as he realizes that he is not giving himself fully to his marriage. A priest says this as he realizes that he is not giving himself fully to the priesthood. To all these people, God says: "You are right. You can't do this anymore — at least not alone."

It is time for us to stop thinking that we can do it ourselves; we need to start trusting in God who will help us complete the mission in life he has given us. That young Mom, and all young parents need to know that you didn't just happen to become a mother or father. God has given you this child, and he will give you the help you need to be a good parent. That elderly gentleman taking chemo and all those who suffer from serious ailments — no matter how old you are — you need to know that you are not alone in your suffering and your anguish. Trust in God, put up the fight for your own life the best you can, and know that as long as you are with God, it really doesn't matter whether you beat this particular crisis, or the next or the one after that, as long as you fight with the Lord. The young widow and all those suffering horrible losses — particularly those who have lost children — need to know that God will get them through the sorrow, and that they now have a gift of understanding they can share with others in pain. The man or woman, mother or father, in perpetual grief over the loss need to know that they are better for having loved, and now can be even more loving, having lost.

The husband or wife who say they cannot go on because he or she is not fully committed to their marriage need to ask themselves why they are holding back. They need to ask themselves if they want God in the relationship. Sometimes, the person they want is neither God nor their spouse. Then no wonder why they feel they can't go on — they can't. But if God is admitted and a Christian lifestyle is resumed, they can do this; they can be a husband or wife. God gives us the power to walk away from that which is destroying us.

There once was a priest who was living a double life. He said: "I can't keep doing this — preaching the faith, and living Christianity while at the same time I want to be with another person." And the answer is straight-forward: "God called you to be a priest. He can and will give you the grace and power to return to the life he has given you and to leave a situation which is destroying your priesthood and destroying you."

Fill in the blanks. Are there situations in your life when you feel you just can't go on — you just can't do it.



you are of sin — the less you think you are holy. Rather, it is when you think that you are without sin that you are in the most danger. The so-called "Holy Joe" is in much more peril than the person who feels that he or she is so unworthy that they are unable to take communion.

Simon Peter was a weak man, and in the Gospels he frequently acknowledges his own weakness. At a crucial moment he denied Christ three times — a clear demonstration of his moral weakness. Yet this was the man chosen to be the cornerstone of the Church, to be the Prince of the Apostles, and the representative of Christ on earth. It is one of the great paradoxes of the Christian Life that in our weakness is our strength.

The Christian Life is a topsy-turvy world. There was a movie out a few years ago entitled: *Topsy-Turvy*. It was about Gilbert and Sullivan and their comic operas. Sir Arthur Sullivan became fed up writing music for WS Gilbert's librettos which he said were repetitive and unbelievable. WS Gilbert is a bit put out when Sullivan turns down his latest offering. Sullivan claims that Gilbert writes stories about a topsy-turvy world which is not worthy of his great musical talent. Gilbert goes off in the huff, but then after visiting a Japanese exhibition conceives the idea of writing *the Mikado*. Sullivan is won over by the cleverness of the text and goes on to write a magnificent musical score.

But if the truth be known, the plot of *the Mikado* is even more ridiculous, fantastic and topsy-turvy than any of Gilbert's previous creations. Despite this — maybe even because of this — *the Mikado* has stood the test of time and is one of the best-loved comic operas in the English language.

But the Christian life is no comic opera — it is the most serious enterprise that there ever could be. The stakes are the highest, the victory the greatest, and the loss the worst. God has launched us out into the deep of our life here on earth. There is no second time around — this is make it or break it. We have been launched out, but we are not alone. The Lord is with us; he is in our boat and he reassures us just as he reassured Simon Peter: "Do not be afraid."

—taken from the writings of Father Alex McAllister, S.D.S., which appear on the internet

READINGS FOR THE WEEK:

Monday:	1 Kings 8:1-13, Mark 6:53-56
Tuesday:	1 Kings 8:22-30, Mark 7:1-13
Wednesday:	Joel 2:12-18, 2 Corinthians 5:20-6:2, Matthew 6:1-6,16-18
Thursday:	Deuteronomy 30:15-20, Luke 9:22-25
Friday:	Isaiah 58:1-9, Matthew 9:14-15
Saturday:	Isaiah 58:9-14, Luke 5:27-32
1st Week in Lent:	Deuteronomy 26:4-10, Romans 10:8-13, Luke 4:1-13

AMAZON.COM:

Please remember that when you want to buy something from Amazon.com, you need to first go to www.ourladychapel.org and click on the Amazon logo at the bottom of the home page! Because of this simple step — and at no cost to the purchaser — Our Lady Chapel receives a percentage of all purchases that are made from Amazon.com. Ever since we have begun this program, we have consistently been receiving significant checks from Amazon that are being credited to help pay for chapel expenses. This affinity program remains in effect throughout the year, so we ask everyone to continue to remember to start your purchases at Amazon on the Our Lady Chapel home page! Thank you.



WHAT FOOTBALL HAS TAUGHT ME ABOUT MY FAITH:

Five years ago, if you were to have asked the question: “Do you want to watch football?”, I would’ve turned my nose up at you and probably said: “ugh.” Today, if you were to ask me that same question, I would immediately clear my schedule to make sure I am ready for kick off — appetizers included.

I don’t know what it is, but I am captivated by this sport — the talent, the plays, the fandom, the rivalries. It may have taken me 25 years of my life, but the more I watch and learn about football — and sports in general — the more I realize that it actually has a lot to teach us about our faith. Whether you dislike sports or don’t miss a single game, there is a lesson to learn in looking at football through the lens of faith.

Football teaches us that we are a part of something larger than ourselves. Say the words “Super Bowl” to any American you meet and they will typically understand it has more to do with touchdowns and less to do with the Guinness Book of World Records. Although the fans and residents of the two talented — and at times, lucky — hometown teams feel so close to the glory that is a Super Bowl title, they know, ultimately, they had nothing to do with that win. Ask me after any loss, and I can tell you quite bitterly that screaming: “RUN TO THE END ZONE” doesn’t make points increase on the scoreboard.

Fans are partakers in the glory of their favorite teams as we — God’s children — are partakers in the Father’s glory. We may think our fandom makes a difference in the way that our team plays — we can wear the “right gear” and chant the “right cheers” — but ultimately, those things do not matter. God’s glory is not contingent upon how good of a “fan” we are. For, our faith is not about God “winning.” Rather our faith is about our participation in His plan — our participation in His Glory. We must share His glory with others, but we would miss the point of God’s greatness if we claimed it as our own.

I must admit, I am a #Cheesehead in a #BirdGang world. For those of you who don’t speak NFL hashtags, that means I am a Green Bay Packers fan in Arizona Cardinal’s territory. And, let me speak about loyalty from experience — you can get beat — pretty badly — by your current city’s team twice in one season, but loyalty for your “home team” never waivers. If it does, I’d question your fandom with a cautious eye.

History is something that runs deeper than a final score or season record. The more that I watch the Packers play, and learn about their incredible history, the more I grow in loyalty and respect for them. The more I learn about my faith and watch God work miracles in my life, the more I grow in loyalty of Him. And, what is so beautiful and so transcendent about loyalty is when the glory fades, or when life gets hard, you always know who has your back — no matter what.

Football teaches us that no matter what, there is joy in the journey. If all that mattered was winning the Super Bowl, then players would lose out on all the little wins that come with growing as an athlete along the way. If all that mattered was winning the Super Bowl, then the fan bases of 31 teams would only feel disappointment — every single season.

At the end of a heartbreaking loss in the playoffs, Mike McCarthy — coach of the Green Bay Packers — said: “Our team will sleep well because they put everything they had into that football game. We don’t have a loser mentality here. We were a successful football team this year. We just didn’t reach the level we wanted to attain.”

Often times, we measure our success by large accomplishments and forget to affirm all of the little accomplishments along the way. As we grow in our faith, it is easy to focus on all that we did wrong instead of all that we did right. That’s why the Sacrament of Reconciliation is so beautiful. It allows us the opportunities to attain those little wins — to see what we need to correct in our daily walk, to amend



our relationship with God, and keep journeying to our ultimate “Super Bowl win” — heaven.

Football teaches us that a team supports one another, no matter what — #FootballIsFamily. This was the hashtag I found most consoling this season. In a time of hard feelings associated with the loss of the Super Bowl dream, what was remembered was simple — win or lose, we support one another.

Even more so, as members of Christ’s Church, we are a family. As players extend a hand to their teammates — and sometimes, opponents — when they are down, as players encourage one another on the sidelines when they are losing, or rejoice with them when they are winning, we are called to be there for one another as Christ’s body. Supporting one another isn’t always easy. Sometimes it means calling a friend out on their bad choices and encouraging them to make better ones. But, supporting one another is worth the challenge. When we support one another, we tell them that we believe in them and we hold each other to a higher standard. We encourage each other to make the best out of all situations and, ultimately, grow as a person.

That is why I love this hashtag. That is why I love to see images of opponents hug at the conclusion of a game. Because in the end, that is the fundamental truth of the matter: we are all family.

- So, this Super Bowl Sunday, create a united front.
- Have a conversation with someone you have struggled to agree with in the past about the things that unite you.
- Reconcile with a sibling you’ve wronged or has wronged you.
- Compliment your parents on what you love and appreciate about them.
- Perhaps, even tell your biggest football rival that they have a pretty good team.

And, cheer loud!

—taken from the writings of Rachel Penate, executive vice-president of LifeTeen.

LIFE TEEN:

Our next Life Teen gathering will be on **Sunday, February 7th** at the **Chapel Indoor Picnic** which goes from **11:15 AM—1:30 PM**. Bring your friends. Come and try us out. Life Teen generally meets right after Sunday Mass — from **11:30 AM—1:00 PM** in the **Lennon Board Room**. Life Teen is open to **all high school aged young people**. **Just call the office and let us know that you are going to be coming**. We ask you to do this because there will be food involved. We have a great deal of fun together and we grow in our faith at the same time. **Respond to your texts and/or emails, or call the chapel office [440-473-3560] to be notified**. If you can’t join us on February 7th, **our next meeting will be on Sunday, February 14th**. Please join us for a wonderful experience. Also please continue to remember all our teens and young people in your prayers.



LIFE TEEN

MIDDLE SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP — THE EDGE:

Our next EDGE gathering will be on **Sunday, February 7th** at the **Chapel Indoor Picnic** which goes from **11:15 AM—1:30 PM**. Bring your friends. Come and try us out. Come and find out what **the EDGE** is all about. If you have not joined us before, that’s OK. **Just call the office and let us know that you are going to be coming**. We ask you to do this because there will be food involved. Our EDGE Youth Group has a Faith-Service-Social component, and we look forward to your participation. All are welcome. **If you can’t join us on February 7th, our next meeting will be on Sunday, February 21st**. **Topic of our conversation TBA**. Please join us for a wonderful experience.

**SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION:**

Father John will be available to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation with you on **every Saturday** between **3:30 – 4:00 PM**. Confessions are also available “by appointment.” The Reconciliation Room is located in the small chapel directly across from Father John’s Office

