

Maneline

ST. Mark Catholic Community

ST. MARK Homebound Ministry: Living in the Body of Christ

The ST. MARK Homebound Ministry is one of the most profound ways the community shares in the Body of Christ and fulfills His command to serve one another. Dedicated Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion (EMHCs) assist the Parish priests and deacons in bringing the EUCHARIST to members who are unable to come to church for the Masses [due to their health].

The structure of the home visits varies with the wishes and needs of those receiving the EUCHARIST. Usually, the EMHCs read the day's Scripture readings, pray with the recipients and any family members present, and distribute Communion.

The EMHCs are all moved by the grace-filled experiences of their visits, the people they meet, the relationships that may develop, and the gratitude of recipients and families and friends. Following are the personal accounts of three EMHCs.

Frances Smith

How often do we take going to Mass for granted? We have the privilege of receiving our Lord's Body and Blood each time we participate in the Mass. What happens, though, when something occurs that keeps us from active participation in the celebration of the Mass for a prolonged period of time? Sickness, hospitalization, incapacitation, home recovery, inability to get to church, bedrest — all reasons that can keep us from the full experience of receiving our Lord Jesus Christ.

It is a very humbling experience to be invited into someone's home, pray with them, and visibly witness the transformation that occurs from receiving the

Body of Christ. Our Lord is truly food for our souls. Every experience is unique, based on the needs of each individual who is visited. The focus is always on the privilege of representing the Church in bringing the Body of our precious Lord and Savior.

Many special relationships are created and nurtured through taking Holy Communion to Parishioners who are at home, in hospitals, or in adult living communities. I developed one such relationship with the very first Parishioner I visited. Experiencing a complicated pregnancy with twins, she was kept on bedrest for the last trimester and desperately wanted to have Holy Communion brought to her. Her spouse was not Catholic, so I was VERY nervous when I went for the first time. What if I don't do this right? What if I make her spouse nervous? What if...? Her spouse graciously invited me into their home; as I went to her bedside, the light within her started shining. Her profuse thanks never dimmed in all the visits I made, and her spouse eventually went from observing on the other side of the door to being there with us during the visit. I took her a prayer shawl that was cream-colored with pink and blue, thinking that she could wrap one of the twins in its softness and always be reminded of the love that ST. MARK Parishioners had for her and her family. Liz Kirmse had made that particular prayer shawl, and it was with great love that it was given and with joyful appreciation that it was accepted. An estrangement between this Parishioner and her mother ended when her mother saw the prayer shawl and then brought her daughter



the one she had been given when she was expecting her. Thus, each of the twins would have its own prayer shawl to be surrounded with love.

Ever since that experience, I continue to be awestruck by God's majestic love for us that we would forever want, and need, His presence in the Body of Christ, no matter where we are, no matter what our health status... even to the very end of our lives. When we long for our Lord, we do not care about the "What if..." We care about receiving Him. I can't imagine a ministry that is a more intimate relationship with the Lord, each and every time, than taking the Holy EUCHARIST to others who cannot come to the table themselves.

Pauline Hartnett

John 6: 53-56 "Unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you do not have life within you. Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him on the last day. These are words that are unique for Catholics in that we believe in the true Presence of Christ in the EUCHARIST. The words are directly given to us from the Father through Christ. The words link us to the Apostles and our traditions of 2,000 years.

Bringing Holy Communion to those in our community who are unable to attend Mass is a beautiful ministry that brings Christ to the faithful. It also fulfills our obligation of the Corporal Works of Mercy to minister to the sick as written in Matthew 25:35-36, "For I was hungry, and you gave me to eat; I was thirsty, and you gave me to drink; I was a

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Homebound Ministry

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stranger, and you took me in. Naked, and you covered me, sick, and you visited me...."

Each visit is unique. Sometimes, the visit is very short: We only pray and leave; at other times, we find ourselves watching Mass with them on television, speaking to family members who need an "outside conversation," having tea and cookies, or even trying to reconnect the internet! Sometimes, we are visiting friends, where we bring chicken soup to also nourish the body. At other times, we have a long-term commitment with someone and make lasting friendships that span years.

While the purpose of the visit is to bring Christ to the sick, it always gives me a sense of community, joy in serving others, and gratitude for my faith and my health. And it is time well spent with Christ.

Iris Gil

Last year, when I was teaching the CONFIRMATION class the Corporal Works of Mercy, one of the students asked if taking the EUCHARIST to

the homebound is considered a work of mercy. I told the class that it was. As stated by the USCCB, the Corporal Works of Mercy "are charitable actions by which we help our neighbors in their bodily needs," in this case, Visiting the Sick.

Bringing the EUCHARIST to the homebound has been one of the most rewarding experiences in my adult Catholic life. It has been my privilege to witness the transformation of lives as we discuss the life-giving sustenance of the Bread of Life. When I am sent forth from the Mass, I leave with joyfulness. As I enter those homes, or when I visit the Sunrise residents, I arrive joyfully and with great enthusiasm for what I am bringing them. When I arrive, I try to determine what their needs are. Is today a good day to read the Gospel or simply to say an Our Father with them?

Some Sundays I read the Gospel, give a condensed version of the homily, and pray for all their needs and those of their families. Other times, I simply trace the

sign of the Cross on the person's forehead and pray with them without giving them the Body of Christ, because they are too ill to receive it. However, their families are so appreciative that someone came and prayed with them. When the families support our ministry and look forward to us being there for their loved ones, it brings tears to my eyes.

Last year I had to take some time off from this ministry because a few people I had become extremely close to at Sunrise passed away. The time off helped me understand this ministry even more and allowed me to get ever closer to those who are infirm and suffering brothers and sisters in Christ. I am grateful for the opportunity to be the face of our community to the homebound. I share what is happening in our Parish, and I usually ask them to keep all of us in their prayers as we keep them in ours. This gives them a true sense of belonging. Being part of their lives, even for a little while on a Sunday morning, brings alive to me this remarkable Corporal Work of Mercy.

He has Risen! Alleluia!

By John Thiemann

This is the message of EASTER and the same that Modesto, our Facilities Manager, and ST. MARK Students Raul and Nicholas, symbolically announce to all who pass the church. They are doing this as they place a white cloth on the Lenten Crucifix at the entrance to the church property from Vale Road.

Six weeks earlier, they had placed a purple-colored cloth on the cross at the beginning of the Lenten Season. The Church recommends that its members prepare themselves during LENT to understand better Christ's supreme act of love in three ways:

- Fasting: restricting the quantity or type of food eaten
- Prayer: placing one's mind and heart before God
- Penance: acting based on motives of love for God and neighbors.

These suggested Lenten activities help us realize that the more we die to self, the closer we will come to understanding



Modesto, Raul, and Nicholas adorn the cross for EASTER.

Christ's victory over sin and death as He suffered crucifixion and rose triumphant on EASTER Sunday.

Gone now are the purple vestments of the priest and the purple coverings over the church's statues and crucifixes. The color of the priestly vestments is

changed to white, the symbol of joy. Now we see that Christ's perfect redemptive sacrifice to His Father was not in vain, since He merited for us the opportunity to rise in Him and share in His life forever.

Spring has arrived, the earth awakens again with new life, and the fragrances and beauty of its blossoming flowers and plants remind us in so many ways of the beauty in God's creation and the still greater beautiful possibility of life eternal.

Our Students have taken on the role of God's missionaries. They are reminding us that as Christ's death provided satisfaction for the sin of our first parents, so we too can become missionaries of God's love for everyone through our words and actions.

Alleluia! . . . He is Truly Risen!

The Grace of The Divine Mercy: Reflections on a Retreat

by Ann Ramish

I recently participated in the Divine Mercy Retreat 2018 with Fr. Thomas Bobby Emprayil, VC, a Vincentian Father who is the Director of the Divine Renewal Retreat Center in Margherita, Assam, India.

Fr. Bobby observed that Jesus gave us his Father, His Kingdom, his Body and Blood, his mother, His life, and His Spirit. In Luke 9:11, we find Jesus welcoming, healing, and teaching. “We are all in need of healing,” stated Fr. Bobby. “It all depends how much we receive the mysteries of the Kingdom. The most important spiritual fact about seeking the Kingdom is our willingness to rejoice in the Presence of the Lord that is the Kingdom. The Kingdom is not a place but a Person, Jesus,” Fr. Bobby declared.

The ID Card of a Christian: Joy

“His Presence is the source of our joy.” Fr. Bobby announced. “The measure of our faith is our joy in the Lord.”

“Praise is the expression of joy,” explained Fr. Bobby. *Rejoice always, pray constantly, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you* (1 Thes 5:16-18). Where the will of God reigns, there is the Kingdom. “In joy we radiate Jesus, the Presence of the risen Lord,” affirmed Fr. Bobby.

Take delight in the Lord, and He will give you the desires of your heart (Ps. 37:4). Do not say ‘Let me be healed and then I will rejoice.’ This is backwards. Rejoice first! “Don’t allow them to take away your joy! God does not cause suffering or rejoice in it. He wants every soul to be saved.” Our folly or disobedience leads to suffering. “Be an instrument of God’s glory,” Fr. Bobby advised us.

“All else depends on our joy,” he insisted. “Mother Teresa taught her Sisters: ‘Remember, my Sisters, a sad Sister is a bad Sister.’ In the presence of the Lord, your faith, hope, and love make it mandatory to rejoice. Joy and thanksgiving come together: ‘For my sickness, I praise you. I am rejected today, I thank you. If you take delight in the Lord, you will see miracles, big and small, everywhere you go,’ stated Fr. Bobby. “I will not allow my problems or any people to take away my joy.”

Praise as Joy’s Expression

“Praise is the most beautiful expression of joy,” Fr. Bobby asserted. “Once the Apostles receive the anointing of the Holy Spirit, they are joyful all the time.” They were *rejoicing that they had been found worthy to suffer dishonor for the sake of the name* (Acts 5:41).

“You must renounce your attachments and addictions: people, job, money, whatever,” he explained. “Then you will take delight in the Lord.” Fear, worries, tension, and anxiety are the enemies of faith. All types of fear take away our faith. “Fear is against the will of God.” We must renounce fear and declare: “The Lord is greater than all my enemies, sickness, cancer...” “Is your problem greater than God?” Fr. Bobby asked. “If you are afraid of something, you are glorifying it. Fr. Bobby explained, “You are not protected when you are afraid. How can miracles happen when you worry? Joy only protects you when you rejoice in the Lord. Repent worries, tension, and fear.”

Hope as Essential

Hope is the second theological virtue. *Rejoice in your hope. Be patient in tribulations. Be constant in prayer* (Rom 12:12). “...*your sorrow will turn to joy*” (Jn 16:22). “Jesus is our hope,” Fr. Bobby declared. Despair is the enemy against hope. When we are sad and depressed, we can become spiritually weak. We may be angry, disobedient, and lustful.

Love of God

The enemies of love are inordinate love for the world and for worldly things, for people, money, our jobs. “Don’t attach yourself always to blessings,” Fr. Bobby instructed us. “Don’t rejoice in the blessings but in the giver of blessings. Blessings such as children, money, jobs, or games can become instruments of sin and then become a instruments of punishment,” Fr. Bobby warned. “...*that they might recognize that one is punished by the very things through which one sins*” (Wis 11:16).

Saving Souls through Suffering

Why did Jesus choose His Apostles? Does he want to choose us today? How much are we going to give Jesus?

Jesus *made them welcome and talked to them*

about the Kingdom of God; and He cured those who were in need of healing (Luke 9:11). “*And this is the will of the one who sent Me, that I should not lose anything of what He gave Me, but that I should raise it [on] the last day* (John 6:39). *Similarly, it is never the will of your Father in heaven that one of these little ones should be lost*” (Matt 18:14).

“It’s so painful to see the work of the devil,” Fr. Bobby exclaimed, “destroying us and our families. All the works of the devil put together make the cross. What did the cross used to symbolize?” Fr. Bobby asked. Punishment, death, and disaster. “The Father desired to send His Son to destroy the work of the devil, to save souls through a way that was unacceptable for the world: the way of the cross. To destroy the work of the devil, Jesus had to accept the cross and shed His blood there and give up his life.”

“Jesus sometimes prayed all night. When He became busy, Jesus skipped work and prayed. When we are busy, we skip a prayer. Many people think work can substitute for prayer,” Fr. Bobby continued. “They think work is worship — but this is not Biblical.”

“Why weren’t prayers alone sufficient? The Father wanted a way that was unacceptable to the world. In Mark 5, the unclean spirit worshipped. Satan can also pray. So with prayer and worship alone, we can’t cast out Satan and save souls.”

“Can we save souls with faith alone?” Fr. Bobby asked. Satan also has faith. *You believe in the one God — that is creditable enough, but even the demons have the same belief, and they tremble with fear* (James 2:19).

In his omniscience, God knew there was only one way to destroy the work of the devil: “Accepting unjust suffering willingly for the sake of others is endurance,” Fr. Bobby declared. “Satan can’t do it. Jesus took unto himself all the work of the devil in the whole world. He accepted it willingly. Even today, that is the only way to save souls,” Fr. Bobby explained.

Jesus’ ministry is saving souls. *[Jesus] said to them again, ‘Peace be with you. As the Father has sent Me, so I send you* (John

The Divine Mercy

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20:21). A missionary is one who is sent. "They must follow me. They will save souls the way I told them. I am the way."

■ *When He was insulted, He returned no insult; when He suffered, He did not threaten...* (1 Pet 2:23).

■ *For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example that you should follow in his footsteps* (1 Pet 2:21).

Saving Power of the Cross

Fr. Bobby stated, "Without the cross, we cannot claim the merit of Jesus on the cross. Accept sufferings willingly, which is endurance. Be joyful! Endurance takes away the poison and bitterness of the suffering." Fr. Bobby explained, "Godly sorrow leads to salvation and no regret,

bringing repentance and salvation in the world. It can save souls in different parts of the world. Unite your suffering with the suffering of Jesus. Endurance, accepting suffering without murmuring, is the good by which you can defeat Satan. You will save your souls and the souls of your family, too," Fr. Bobby added. "We should be channels of blessing for others. When we obey, grace will flow."

"When everything is going well for you, your faith increases and you want to witness. Jesus is inviting us to a time with no miracles. Fr. Bobby instructed us, "When you are sick and suffering and in darkness, you can save souls by your endurance. The Lord wants us to walk the way of the cross to save souls. When you do anything in the name of Jesus,

you get a blessing. You need to suffer to save souls."

■ *"We rejoice in our sufferings knowing that suffering produces endurance"* (Rom 5:3).

■ *"For to you has been granted, for the sake of Christ, not only to believe in Him but also to suffer for Him* (Phil 1:29).

■ *"My brothers, consider it a great joy when trials of many kinds come upon you, for you know well that the testing of your faith produces perseverance..."* (James 1: 2-3).

■ *"Therefore, I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and constraints, for the sake of Christ, for when I am weak, then I am strong"* (2 Cor 12:10).

■ *"To this you were called, because Christ suffered for you, leaving you an example, that you should follow in His steps* (1 Pet 2:21).



Parish youth and adult volunteers held the annual mulch sale to raise funds for the summer Workcamp. They cheerfully delivered and spread the mulch as well.

ST. MARK Welcomes New Members at the EASTER Vigil

The EASTER Vigil was a joyous occasion as ST. MARK welcomed new members into the Church and celebrated the completion of the Sacraments of Initiation with others.

The Elect:

Amir Gilanshah, Austyn Kim, Ryan Kim, and Stephen Risseuw

Candidates:

Avery Nelson and Haley Stroup

Catholics Completing Sacraments:

Gloria Kim and Paula Salguero McCommons
Haley Stroup will enter Full Communion on May 19.



Kevin Flores and his wife Evelyn helped with the post-EASTER Vigil celebration by providing the beautiful cake enjoyed by all. He said, "it was a wonderful celebration of the Sacraments received by five adults and two youth at the EASTER Vigil."



Visiting the Birthplace of Jesus

By Joe Celio

In October 2017, my wife Barb and I went on a pilgrimage to the Holy Land. Our guide was Fr. David Wathen, a Franciscan Friar, who has led over 200 pilgrimages of the Holy Land in the past 10 years. Here is a reflection on our visit to Bethlehem.

Late in the morning, our pilgrimage headed for Bethlehem, an Arab city nestled in the hills a few miles south of Jerusalem in what is today the West Bank. Israel occupied the West Bank after the six-day war in 1967. Since 1967, there have been several peace treaties and accords between Israel and the adjacent countries. The Oslo Accords of 1993 between Israel and the Palestinian Authority gave the Palestinians political control over several West Bank cities. The Accords state that Jewish citizens of Israel cannot enter the West Bank cities controlled by the Palestinian Authority. Bethlehem is one of those cities. Fr. David asked us to bring a form of identification with us the day we went to Bethlehem in case.

CHURCH OF THE NATIVITY

The original *CHURCH OF THE NATIVITY* was built by Emperor Constantine in the 4th century. The church, badly damaged by earthquakes, was rebuilt by Byzantine emperor Justinian in 565 AD. City buildings have crowded around the church, so it is not easy to get a full view of it. Over the centuries, the church has been damaged and restored several times. The latest renovation started in 2016.

Most pilgrims coming into the church use a street entrance. For the Franciscan pilgrims, the access to the Church is through Casa Nova, a guest house adjoining the church, built and operated by Franciscans. The interior of the church was still being renovated when we visited. The church is administered jointly by the Greek Orthodox, the Latin Catholic, and the Armenian Orthodox sects. The Main Altar is split, one-third for each sect. The Grotto of the Nativity is beneath the Main Altar.

Grotto of the Nativity

We took our places in the considerable line of pilgrims who moved very slowly toward the Grotto of the Nativity, arriving after nearly an hour and a half. The slow movement is due to pilgrims' veneration of the traditional spot of the birth of

Jesus in the Grotto. As we approached the Grotto entrance, each pilgrimage group was given its own time in the Grotto, making for less pushing and congestion.

A silver 14-point star marks the traditional location of the birth of Jesus. Almost all pilgrims kneel down to touch or kiss the star and say a prayer before allowing the next person to get close. Also in the Grotto is the traditional spot of the manger where Jesus was laid after his birth.

Nativity Grotto

One of the important aspects of our pilgrimage was the reading of Gospel passages at the very spot where the events occurred. Because of the long wait and the pressure to move through the Grotto to let others enter, Fr. David read the Nativity passage from Luke while we were standing in line waiting (Luke 2:1-21). He could communicate with us in the midst of the multitude waiting in line by using what he called the whisper system, an audio broadcast system that allowed each of us to hear him through individual earpieces. When our entire pilgrimage group finished their adoration, we left the Grotto and started leaving the church. We could see bright and colorful mosaics high up on the wall of the Nave that were clearly recently restored. There were openings in the floor that showed some of the original mosaic floors. We walked on raised floors so that these 1600-year-old mosaics continue to be preserved.

In the early 600s, the Byzantine Empire as a continuation of the old Roman Empire was fighting the Persians. At a decisive battle in 614 AD, the Byzantines suffered a significant defeat. In the next few years, the Persian armies went through the Holy Land, systematically destroying almost all of the Byzantine churches. One of the few churches not destroyed was the *CHURCH OF THE NATIVITY*. Tradition has it that when the Persians entered the church, they saw a mosaic on the walls of the Adoration of the Magi. They recognized the Magi as wearing the traditional garb of Persian holy men. For that reason, they did not destroy the Church.

Shepherd's Field

The bus took us to the Shepherd's Field, an area commemorating the angels announcing the birth of a Savior to the shepherds watching their flocks. Much

of the area is owned by the Franciscans, who built the current *CHURCH OF THE SHEPHERD'S FIELD*. The church is designed to represent a tent used by shepherds when watching their flocks in the 1st century. It has a large central dome with paintings and mosaics of the events surrounding the birth of Jesus and its announcement to the shepherds. At some holy sites, there are traditions of worship that pilgrimage leaders encourage their group to follow. At the Shepherd's Field, it is the singing of the hymn, "Angels We Have Heard on High." Once a group gets the singing started, it is not unusual for everyone at the site to sing along. Fr. David started us and we picked up the song, which echoed within the dome.

Painting Inside of the Shepherd's Field

Just outside of the Shepherd's Field is a large olive wood store owned by Palestinian Christians. Few Christians remain in and around Bethlehem; most have been driven away by economic and political conditions. The Franciscans assist them by giving pilgrims the opportunity to buy souvenirs from the Palestinian sellers at the holy sites throughout Israel and the West Bank.

We bought crèches and other olive wood art objects for friends and family. Everything for sale in the store is made by Christians in and around the Holy Land. The owner pointed out the work of some artists that command higher prices because of their fine quality. We could definitely see the difference in workmanship and prices.

Fr. David allowed one or two of the street vendors to come on board the bus to entice us with their wares. I remember woven scarves and Jerusalem Cross necklaces as the most prevalent street wares. Fr. David said, "I explain to my pilgrims the importance of making their purchases of religious objects, especially in Bethlehem and its neighboring towns, as these are the areas where Palestinian Christians suffer the most from the lack of government-sponsored social services and from the hardship of living in an occupied territory."

We left Bethlehem to visit the tomb of Lazarus and the Church of Lazarus in the West Bank city of Bethany. When we were finished, we returned to our hotel in Jerusalem.

Celebrating a Christian Marriage

By Deacon Charlie Duck

The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* states: “Christian marriage becomes an efficacious sign, the Sacrament of the covenant of Christ and the Church. An efficacious sign is one that does not merely symbolize or signify something, but actually makes present what it signifies. Marriage signifies and makes present to Baptized spouses the love of Christ by which He formed the Church as his spouse: Just as of old God encountered His people in a covenant of love and fidelity, so our Savior, the spouse of the Church, now encounters Christian spouses through the Sacrament of Marriage.”

The theology of the Church may portray marriage in a matter-of-fact manner, but its truth becomes more understandable when it is lived. What follows is a bird’s-eye summary of the 50 years that my wife Beryl and I have spent together.

Beryl and I started our love affair as two and very naïve young people while in college. She was ending her first year and I my second. I wanted to marry her after our first date. I loved everything about her. We married in the spring of 1968. She dropped out of college to work at the local bank. I worked construction jobs and went to school. I joined the Louisiana National Guard in September. We ate hot dogs and drank kool-aid for the last two years of college. After college, we moved to Houston, Texas. The culture shock of living in the city was total, but love is a powerful cure for all ills when you are first married.

The Church’s theology says we become one flesh in marriage, but it seems to

take a lot of time to get there. We lived in 10 cities; I had careers in sales, transportation, engineering, computer science, consulting, and church and school administration over 46 years. Beryl stayed home and managed everything. We had two daughters — Charlotte in 1971 and Stephanie in 1980

Transition to Parenthood

The transition to parenthood changes almost everything in life that you think is important, from what pleases you and builds your esteem to what provides security and well-being for your family. Beryl decided early on that she would not work outside the home but instead would build a refuge and sanctuary for the family. Her decision was formed by two major factors.

■ First, her mother was a school teacher. She was raised in a household where her father worked in the oilfield and was gone for weeks at a time, and her mother was exhausted all of the time. She wanted a different kind of home for me and the children after a day at work and school.

■ Second, we lived where my jobs moved us. We lived in places away from friends and family. This required us to bond closer as we moved from place to place. The two constants of home and were everywhere we moved.

The Catholic Church

Our family grew as children came along. They are the living and breathing reality of the love married couples share. Loving God and our spouse above all else in life is, by far, the best way to support and care for our children and family.



Charlie and Beryl celebrate their marriage in 1968.

Watching your children grow, marry, and have children of their own is one of the greatest gifts God has for married couples. The addition of sons to our family has been a blessing and gift from God. Mark and Charlotte and Patrick and Stephanie are reinforcing the Sacrament of MATRIMONY for the future.

There is a great feeling of satisfaction that the love God gave to Beryl and me 50 years ago has been more than enough to last forever. I still love everything about her.

Yet there is more! God keeps on giving. Grandchildren come along just when you need them the most: Drew and Katy Daugherty and Meghan and Sophie O’Neill. You may be broke, your health failing, your high school friends have passed away, and you lost your driver’s license — but the hug from your grandchildren can make you feel as young as they are!

The EASTER Lesson

... An interesting lesson follows from the disquieting fact of the Resurrection, namely, that this world is not it. What I mean is that this world is not all that there is. We live our lives with the reasonable assumption that the natural world as we’ve come to know it is the final framework of our lives and activities. And one of the most powerful and frightening features of the natural world is death. Every living thing dies and stays dead.

But what if death and dissolution did not have the final say? What if, through God’s power, and according to His Providence, a “new heavens and a new earth”

were being born? The Resurrection of Jesus from the dead shows as definitively as possible that God is up to something greater than we had imagined or thought possible.

And therefore we don’t have to live as though death were our master. In light of the Resurrection, we can begin to see this world as a place of gestation, a place of growth and maturation toward something higher, more permanent, and more splendid.

Source: Bishop Robert Barron, Word on Fire, April 3, 2018

M&Ms Return to the Museum of the Bible

by Ann Ramish

The M&Ms recently revisited the Museum of the Bible, an enormous private museum that opened in November. We took a bus, but the museum is a short walk of less than a block from the metro. After passing through airport-type security, we took a Highlights Tour, followed by lunch at the museum and time to look around on our own.

Our tour guide said it would take nine eight-hour days to see all of the exhibits! There are some temporary exhibit areas; the Vatican and Israel have exhibits. Some exhibits are especially for children and young people. A few exhibits have an extra charge. The museum offers a state-of-the-art auditorium and theatre and ballroom.

The museum has an impressive collection of historic Bibles. There were Bibles that had been distributed to slaves and that were heavily redacted; all references to freedom and liberty were omitted. In the Jefferson Bibles, all of the miracles were omitted. Governor William Bradford's Bible that he brought over on the Mayflower is on display. The museum also has Bibles with errors, including an original King James

Bible where the word "not" was omitted from the Sixth Commandment! When the King learned of this, he ordered the Bibles recalled and destroyed, and he changed printers!

Another section of the museum features exhibits on the "Impact of the Bible." One exhibit is about an infamous prison in Louisiana that was transformed when a four-year Bible college was introduced there for the inmates. Now it is considered a model prison.

If you have ever seen "Shakespeare in an Hour," you might be ready to "Walk through the Old Testament" in 30 minutes. We also enjoyed the printing press demonstration. The Tiffany stained glass image of Christ was beautiful and imposing. I can also recommend the Mediterranean cuisine in the Manna Restaurant.

We had an enjoyable trip, and there are plenty of other exhibits for us to see on our next visit. Our thanks to Bill McCarthy and Barbara Walsh for making all the arrangements!

A Lenten Treat from the M&Ms

by John Thieman

ST. MARK offers a unique program to involve its senior members who may have retired, live alone, or simply want to stay involved in Parish activities. All of its members are encouraged to participate actively in its trips, visit local attractions, attend events and take part in the Lenten Soup Supper

The name "M&M" stands for "Maturing Matters." The group, headed by Barbara Walsh and Bill McCarthy, offers activities throughout the year. One of its Lenten activities is to provide Parishioners with a meatless soup and fresh bread evening meal so that everyone can come together and enjoy a homemade meal before attending the regular Friday evening Stations of the Cross.

The food these cooks prepared is not the kind one might expect when merely opening a can from the store. It was a real tribute to the Parish's many skillful chefs. This particular evening, the ladies prepared many of their own specialty treats that ranged from spiced butternut squash soup, mushroom barley soup, and cream of cauliflower and lentil soups, as well as many varieties of home-prepared salads, to fresh breads and home-made cookies. Everyone was invited to have seconds. Mr. Nick Jacoby, a School teacher and chaperone who stopped by while preparing to accompany the Eighth-Grade boys on their CONFIRMATION preparation weekend, gladly accepted a bowl of soup offered by Judy Weiland and Barbara Walsh.

After the dinner, everyone gathered in the church to pray the Lenten Stations of the Cross.



Milestones

NEW PARISHIONERS

ST. MARK welcomes the following new Parishioners to our Parish family:

Nicholas Elliott
Sarah Evans
Julia George
Michael and Ann Kerby
Carol McClure
Eric Miller
Eamon Monahan and Mary Lenahan
and Children
Brittany Murray

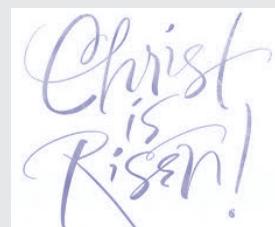
BAPTISM

Amir Homayun Gilanshah
Austyn Jihan Kim
Ryan Jiho Kim
Avery Elizabeth Nelson (Profession
of Faith)
Stephen Dean Risseeuw

DEATHS

*The following Parishioners
entered into eternal life:*

Caroline Radja
James Radja
Karin Nobile
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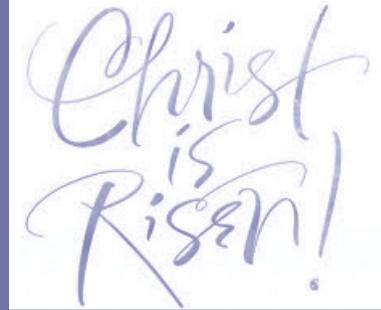
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Mark Your Calendar

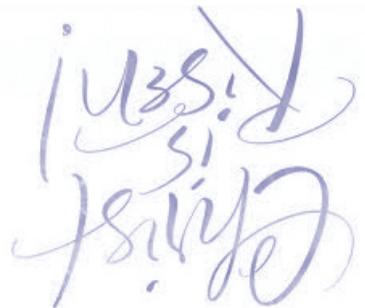
May

- 2 *ST. MARK* Praise and Worship 7:30 p.m.
- 3 Embry Rucker food delivery 9:00 a.m.
- 4 First Friday Eucharistic Adoration
- 5 May Crowning 5:30 p.m.
- 5-6 First Holy Communion, all Masses
- 6 Youth and Family Mass 6:00 p.m.
- 8 College Moms and Respect Life 7:30 p.m.
- 9 *ST. MARK* Praise and Worship 7:30 p.m.
- 12-13 First Holy COmmunion - all Masses
- 12-13 Workcamp Fundraiser after all Masses
- 13 Spiritual Classics Book Club 5:00p.m.
- 16 *ST. MARK* Praise and Worship 7:30 p.m.
- 18 Movie Night 6:30 p.m.
- 20 Christ House food delivery
- 23 *ST. MARK* Praise and Worship 7:30 p.m.
- 28 FACETS hot meal preparation 3:00 p.m.
- 30 FORTY HOURS Devotion opens 10:00 a.m.



Address Service Requested

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