

February 4, 2018

The 5th Sunday in Ordinary Time

"Why do the good suffer?" That is the question that is the subject of the whole Book of Job, from which our first reading is taken. The unknown human author, inspired by the Holy Spirit, took a traditional story passed down among the Jews about a man named Job. He had everything you could want; he lost everything and because he kept faith with God, he got everything back and lived happily ever after! A nice story, but is it real?

The author of Job split that story: it is at the beginning and the end of the Book of Job. In over 30 chapters, Job is depicted questioning why he is suffering. Three friends try to console him but none of the "explanations" really is convincing. Finally God speaks to Job: His "answer" is not intellectually satisfying: "Who are you to question my ways? Submit to God's will." Even Jesus did not give us an "explanation" of why the good suffer. He accepted His suffering on the Cross: it was the Father's will.

The Book of Job is not easy reading for us: we expect some development of an argument.

The Jewish way of debate was to repeat over and over again. The repetition makes the point as strongly as possible.

In some way our sufferings fit into God's plan for us.

*Thank
You*

Thank you to all for your kind wishes and prayers on the occasion of my official installation as "Monsignor". Thanks especially to Sue and Doug Garrett and the whole Parish Life Team for organizing and providing the Hall Reception.

Blessings

St. Blaise, Bishop and Martyr: today we ask God's healing mercy upon all the sick.

CHOIR NEWS

**TENTH ANNUAL FESTIVAL OF
SPIRITUALS RETURNS!**



The annual Festival of Spirituals will return to St. Helena's for its tenth edition, entitled *We Shall Walk Through the Valley in Peace*, on Sunday, February 11, 2018 at 3:00pm. St. Helena's Church Choir will host the Choir School of Delaware, the Perryville (MD) High School Chamber Choir, the DuPont Diversity Choir, and the newly-formed Ecumenical Choir of North Wilmington. The Ecumenical Choir consists of singers and directors from Aldersgate United Methodist Church, St. Helena's Catholic Church and St. Paul's United Methodist Church. Each choir will perform a set of spirituals and then all choirs will join for a Mass finale. The church will literally be filled with more than 200 voices. There is no admission, but a free-will offering will be taken. Net proceeds will benefit United Methodist Committee on Relief, Presbyterian Disaster Assistance and the Lutheran World Relief.

REMEMBER!

NEVER leave your pocketbook or anything valuable in sight in your car. Recently thieves have hit our parish as well as the Methodist and Episcopal Churches. Items donated for the poor can be left in church or the porch during regular Mass times or rectory office hours.

WEEKLY MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, February 3

5:00 pm(SR) Louis Calvarese, Jr.

Sunday, February 4

7:00 am(SR) The Deceased Members of the
Lutcavage and Blaska Families

9:00 am(WK)The People of the Parish

11:00 am(SR)The Deceased Members of the
Meriggi and Roggero Families

Monday, February 5

7:00am(WR)

9:00am(SR) Louis Calvarese, Jr.

Tuesday, February 6

7:00am(WR)

9:00am(SR) John Covino

Wednesday, February 7

7:00am(SR)

9:00am(WK) Rose D'Amato and
Carolyn Marchione

Thursday, February 8

7:00am(SR)

9:00 am(WK)

Friday, February 9

7:00am(Cap) Paul O. Knight, 6th Anniversary

9:00 am(SR) Joseph Fedena

Saturday, February 10

9:00 am(SR)

5:00 pm(SR) Joanne Sparklin

Sunday, February 11

7:00 am(WR)The People of the Parish

9:00 am(SR) Edward Ganster

11:00 am(KN)Paul O. Knight

MARRIAGE MOMENTS

By Susan Vogt

Some people like to be pampered when they are sick. Others like to be left alone. What comforts your beloved when they don't feel well?

PARENTING POINTERS

By Susan Vogt

February 2nd was Ground Hog Day. Legend has it that these cute furry critters can predict the weather. Talk with your children about what kind of weather they like best.

YOUNG AT HEART

As winter's beauty begins to fade, our next general meeting will be held on Monday evening, February 19th at 7:00pm in Masci Hall. This meeting will feature Miss Rita Stirparo of "Mindful Balance" as our talented teacher of Gentle Yoga. Miss Stirparo's expertise will guide us in this wonderful art of exercise.

Plan on joining us for Yoga and tasty refreshments, fun and fellowship. For weather updates and any information, call Carmela at 302-762-9057. *"Move It or Lose It"*

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

Our members meet in the Convent. For February, we will be meeting on February 28th only since the second Wednesday will be Ash Wednesday. Each meeting begins with recitation of the Chaplet of Mercy or the Rosary. Our members and parishioners create shawls and other lovely items which are blessed and brought to so many in need of comfort and caring. Materials are given freely and items can be made at home. Joining our dedicated ministry will make your life even more meaningful. Call Carmela on 762-9057 for more information or for questions about inclement weather.

Please Pray For Our Sick Parishioners

Anne Ambagis, Ruth Bower, Charles Brumbaugh, Joan Callaghan, Joseph Campanella, Jean Capodanno, Debbie Cole, Tony Cutrona, Patricia Darmanin, Jayne Davenport, Bob Davis, Julia Davis, Gerri Episcopo, Sara Garrison, Mary Ann Irelan, Levi & Ellie Jernigan, Ella Kirksey, Jack Kramer, James Lafferty, Sue McLaughlin, Edward Mebs, Gay Meriggi, Dan Moley, Dora Pacitti, Fr. Roy Pollard, Terri Reed, Dorothy Rich, Helen Rupnicki, Joseph Sacher, Kathleen Schaubert, Irma Shock, Caitlin Soper, Frank Sullivan, George Theiss, William Thomas, Catherine Thomson, Cynthia Whisker, James Whisker, Ann Wilson, Cindy Zych

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

FIRST EUCHARIST: letters were mailed and given out at Religious Education classes on Monday night. If you have a child in second grade or above who has been enrolled in Religious Education classes or is attending a Catholic School and has not yet received First Eucharist, please call Ms. Hummy, 762-4280 or email her: hpennell@sainthelenas.org.

Ms. Hummy is in need of someone to sit in during classes with our combined 7th & 8th grade class. Our two volunteers are unable to continue this year. No teaching is required – this fulfills our Diocesan Mandate to have 2 adults in each class (For the Sake of God's Children).

ALTAR SERVER SCHEDULE

Saturday, February 10

5:00pm – Emily, Ryan

Sunday, February 11

7:00am – Joyce

9:00am – Server Needed

11:00am – Molly, Seamus

RETRouvaille

Does the distance between you seem wide? Are you already separated? Looking for a better way? Retrouvaille can help and offers hope for a better relationship. Retrouvaille is a peer ministry of volunteer couples that can help you learn the tools of healthy communication, build intimacy and heal, just as they have done in their own marriages. Retrouvaille is Christian-based, and Catholic in origin, but welcomes couples of all faiths as well as non-religious couples. Retrouvaille can help get your relationship back on track. There are 2 programs coming up at the Family Life Center in Malvern: February 16-18 and April 13-15. For more information or to register for a weekend, visit: www.HelpOurMarriage.org or call: 1-800-470-2230. All inquiries are kept strictly confidential.

WEEKLY CALENDAR

Sunday, February 4

Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

2nd Collection: Maintenance and Repair

All Masses: St. Blaise Blessing

All Masses: Food Collection-Church

11:00am Child. Liturgy/Word-Church

Monday, February 5

5:30pm Youth Choir-Church

6:30pm Religious Ed Class-School

6:30pm Adult Scripture Study-Rel. Ed. Office

7:00pm Young at Heart Crafts-Convent

Tuesday, February 6

7:00pm Christian Formation-Religious Ed

Thursday, February 8

5:30pm Bingo-Masci Hall

7:30pm Adult Choir-Church

33 DAYS TO MORNING GLORY St.

Ann's Parish is offering a small group retreat with Fr. Gaitley's materials and videos: 33 Days to Morning Glory in Preparation for Marian Consecration. The retreat will be offered on Monday evenings from 5-6:30p in the Social Hall beginning February 12, 2018, and continues through March 26 (no session President's Day, Feb. 19) with consecration on Holy Saturday, the feast of our Lady of the Holy Cross on March 31st.

Two textbooks are located in the Chapel of Divine Mercy for you to review and ponder your participation. Pp. 15-27 are most helpful. Please leave the texts in the Chapel for others.

For more information or to register for the retreat, call Connie Winner-Varone at 302-765-9864 or email: cnwinner@comcast.net.

LITTLE SISTERS OF THE POOR COOKS FOR A CAUSE

The Annual Cooks for a Cause will be held on February 18th at Feby's Fishery. A percentage of the evening's proceeds will be donated to the Little Sisters. Local parish priests will be the "wait staff". The event includes a 50/50 raffle and silent auction. Reservations are preferred: 302-998-9501 for more information.

PARISH SOCIAL MINISTRY

Parish Social Ministry needs parishioners to serve as Funeral Greeters at wakes and funerals at St. Helena's Church. If you think you would be interested or you have questions, please call Dorothy at 764-0325 Ext. 104.

The Food Closet is in need of: Pancake syrup, instant potatoes and canned meats.

THURSDAY NIGHT BINGO BINGO IN BAD WEATHER

Listen to WDEL 1150AM or 101.7FM
Check "Next Door Bellefonte"

Log onto our website: www.sainthelenas.org

Call Rectory: 764-0325 after 2pm for the special phone message

Are you looking for a way to become more involved at St. Helena's? We need people to serve food, sell Bingo materials and monitor games. Or...try your hand at playing Bingo! Don't know anything about Bingo? There are lots of friendly folks to show you how. To volunteer or for more info, call 764-0325. To play Bingo, just show up (18 or older). Doors open on at 5:30pm for food. Games begin at 7pm. Join the fun!

MASS ATTENDANCE BAD WEATHER POLICY

"Canon Law (1247) states that on Sundays and other holy days of obligation, the faithful are obliged to participate in the Mass. However, the law does not expect the impossible nor can the fulfillment of the obligation according to the norm of the law be burdensome or dangerous. There is no obligation to attend Mass if weather or road conditions are unsafe or make travel dangerous or if one is unable to get out of their driveway or parked space. Those persons who are unable to attend Mass under such conditions may view the celebration of Mass on television, depending on local television schedules. Sometime should be given to private or family prayer to sanctify the Lord's Day.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS HAPPENINGS

THIRD ANNUAL LENTEN FISH FRY DINNERS



Dinners will begin on Friday, February 16 and continue weekly through March 23rd. Dinners are served from 5:00-7:00pm in Masci Hall. There will be fried or baked fish platters, crab cake platters and weekly seafood special platters available. The price for fish platters starts at \$10. Children's fish platters will also be available, as well as desserts, soup and salad. Proceeds from these dinners help support the Parish Social Ministry and food pantry.

GET YOUR GREEN READY!



The Knights of Columbus annual St. Pat's Party will be held on march 17 from 6:00-11:00pm in Masci Hall. Doors open at 5:30pm. Enjoy a night of Irish dancing; Irish music; an Irish themed buffet dinner including corned beef and cabbage, ham, Shepherd's Pie, Guinness Beef Stew, Irish bangers, potato leek soup and other traditional Irish fare; Irish beverages (draft beer and wine included); cash bar to liquor and specialty drinks; basket raffles; silent auction; live music by Helixx and dancing; and more fun than you can imagine. Tickets are \$30/pp. Credit cards are accepted. Contact Raymond Cobb for tickets at (302) 547-6931 or raymondcobb3182@gmail.com.

