

§ Reflection >

Imagine it were possible for us to spend a day in the life of someone in today's scripture. Whose place would we take? We might not choose Job: drudgery and misery, troubled nights and hopeless days. Then there is the psalmist, who speaks words of assurance that God heals the brokenhearted and sustains the lowly. But we suspect that the psalmist likely had experience of being cast out or oppressed, and so we might not be any better off in the psalmist's shoes than those of Job.

If a day in the life of Job or the psalmist wouldn't suit us, perhaps we'd instead choose one of the people we meet in the gospel: Peter (Simon) or Andrew, James or John. Imagine being one of the first disciples Jesus called, having a day to follow Jesus and hear him speak and witness him heal. This brings us to Simon's mother-in-law, yet another person we encounter today. Unless we would choose to spend a day sick in bed with a fever, we might not want to spend the day as Simon's mother-in-law. So who is left? In the gospel, there are "All those who were ill or possessed by demons." Spending a day sick or possessed doesn't sound very appealing.

But there are two other people to consider: St Paul and Jesus. From what Paul describes in today's letter to the Corinthians, we can imagine that spending a day in his life might not be bad, as he gets to preach the gospel free of charge and have the ability to be all things to all people. On the other hand, we know that Paul faced challenges and hardships. Moreover, to live a day in the life of Paul would be to discover that he had completely given his life to Jesus. "I live, no longer I, but Christ lives in me," said Paul. And how did Jesus live? The gospel paints a pretty clear picture, which is helpful for our imaginations, but as Christians we are called not merely to imagine a day in the life of Jesus, but to live every day in the life of the risen Jesus as Paul did.

Beginning with last week's gospel and concluding with today's gospel, the evangelist Mark gives us a glimpse into the first day of what Jesus is calling us to be and do. We listened as Jesus began his ministry teaching in a synagogue. Although few of us are teachers in a classroom setting, each of us teaches by example. Some of life's most important lessons— love, forgiveness, patience, compassion, fidelity—are learned outside the classroom, before our formal education even begins. Imagine the difference we make, for good or ill, often without knowing it.

Jesus not only taught on that first day, he also confronted the evil which stands in the way of God's kingdom of love and peace. We discover that there are many evils around us and within us that we DO have the power to cast out. We also know that to live the life of Jesus means to heal the sick. While we don't have the power to grasp the hand of sick persons and make them well, we do have the power to bring healing and comfort to the sick, simply by being present. Jesus did not delay in doing so, and neither should we.

Such is the way of Jesus in Mark's Gospel. Jesus doesn't waste any time, and the breathless pace might make us wonder how any of us could follow in Jesus' footsteps. But the answer is made clear when we are told that on the day following the first day, "rising very early before dawn, he left and went off to a deserted place, where he prayed." If Jesus needed to pray in order to do God's work, it should be abundantly clear that we must do the same if we are to more closely resemble Jesus.

When we teach by good example and confront evil, when we heal and pray, we become the very presence of Christ in the world. And through our living our days with Jesus, the world not only will imagine but will know the love of God in Christ Jesus.



Stewardship Report:



Revenue

January 25:	8,328.84
Faith Direct:	1,351.25
Total Offertory:	9,680.09
Last Year:	10,120.56
Poor Box:	187.00
Every Penny Counts Box:	66.96

Number of Adult Envelopes: 245
 Number of Children's Envelopes: 13
 Number of Faith Direct donors: 37
 Number of Registered Households: 660

February 1:	9,345.33
Faith Direct:	1,351.25
Total Offertory:	10,696.58
Last Year:	10,885.15
Poor Box:	204.00
Every Penny Counts Box:	77.03

Number of Adult Envelopes: 277
 Number of Children's Envelopes: 13
 Number of Faith Direct donors: 37
 Number of Registered Households: 660

Expenses

Electric Bill (one month):	3,700.00
Gas Bill (one month):	7,332.00
New Offertory Envelopes:	2,000.00
Monthly Property Insurance:	1,840.00
Snow & Ice Removal (one time):	500.00
Rock Salt Purchase:	200.00
TOTAL EXPENSES:	15,572.00



This week, you are asked to review the Archbishop's Appeal brochure and the tabloid that you will receive with your bulletin today. The theme of the campaign is: "For the glory of God." (1 Cor. 10:31) The Annual

Appeal campaign is much different than a one time special collection. It is a pledge campaign where you can make a gift, payable over ten months. A significant gift to the Archbishop's Appeal will touch the lives of many others in a very positive way. As you review the work enabled by your contribution, please reflect on God's gifts to you. He has given you all that you have. Your gifts to our parish, to the Archdiocese and to the work of the Church throughout the world should be given in gratitude for the continuing gifts that God gives you. Sometimes it is difficult to envision how one pledge can help an organization the size of our Archdiocese, how it can make a real difference. But each pledge does make a difference because all parishes participate in the campaign and the gifts of many enable our Archdiocese to deliver needed ministries and services. Our combined gifts not only signify our gratitude to God, they glorify Him by enabling the work of our Archdiocese. If you received your pledge form in the mail, please complete it and mail it back or bring it to Mass next weekend. For those of you that did not receive a mailing or have not had time to respond to it, we will conduct our in-pew pledge process at all Masses next weekend and the following weekend. Thank you for your prayerful consideration and generous response.

Faith Formation

Faith Formation and Inclement Weather: Parents, please remember that classes begin at 6:30 pm prompt and not 6:45 pm. So far, you are doing very well in picking up your children on time. Keep it up. We follow the PG county policy regarding inclement weather so if PG county after school programs are closed, so are ours.

Please Note: There will be NO CLASSES on Monday February 16th in observance of President's Day.

Other Items of Note



PRESIDENTS DAY CLOSING: Please take note that both the school and rectory will be **closed** on Monday February 16th in observance of President's Day. Both will reopen on Tuesday February 17th at the customary times.

Lou Gehrig's Disease Informational Meeting: The KOC will have a guest speaker from the ALS Association to talk about Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS or Lou Gehrig's Disease) at their next social meeting on February 17th at 8:00pm in Friendship Hall. All are welcome to attend this presentation to learn more about this disease.

Be "Powered by Faith" at Catholic Lobby Night: Join hundreds of Catholic on President's Day— Monday, February 16th— for the annual Catholic Lobby Night in Annapolis. This advocacy event gives Catholic voters the opportunity to speak in person with their elected officials about issues including: supporting pregnant women in crisis, Catholic schools, the death penalty, marriage, and poverty. Registration is required and transportation will be available. Visit www.mdcathcon.org or call the Maryland Catholic Conference at 410-269-1155 or 301-261-7379 to register for this event.

Retrouaille: A Lifeline for Marriage— Retrouaille helps couples through difficult times in their marriages, including couples considering separation or who are separated or divorced. It is designed to provide the tools to help get your marriage back on track. For confidential information about or to register for program on February 13-15, call 301-468-6764 or 410-647-0350 or visit the website at www.HelpOurMarriage.com



Worldwide Marriage Encounter: Are you looking for ways to strengthen your marriage? Perhaps you would like to communicate better with your spouse? If you desire to grow in your marital love, a weekend with Worldwide Marriage Encounter is just for you! The next scheduled weekends are February 13-15 (Lexington Park, MD) and April 24-26 (Rockville, MD). Please contact John and Gail Gordon at 410-414-9667 or email gordon4514@aol.com for more information or to register for a retreat weekend.



Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner: Have dinner, help our school, and celebrate Fat Tuesday (a.k.a, Mardi Gras) all at the same time on February 24 at 6:00 in Friendship Hall! A traditional **pancake dinner**, including sausage and beverage, will be served with proceeds going to the **Every Penny Counts** box to support St. Matthias School. The cost is \$6 for adults, \$3 for kids 12 and under, and with a max of \$18 per family. This event is being sponsored by the Mother Seton Council of the Knights of Columbus. For reservations, please notify Jan Kalshoven at kalshoven@rocketmail.com with your name and the number attending by February 20th.



Mass Intentions for the Fifth Week in Ordinary Time

Monday, February 9:

8:30 am Ray DeGraff

Tuesday, February 10: Scholastica, virgin

8:30 am Tim Retumban

Wednesday, February 11: Our Lady of Lourdes

8:30 am Helen Zatorski

Thursday, February 12:

8:30 am Rosemary Sorber (living, birthday)

Friday, February 13:

8:30 am Msgr. Armando Jimenez

Sat., February 14: Vigil— Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

3:30 pm to 4:30pm—Confessions

5:00 pm Henry Kosko

Sunday, February 15: Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

8:00 am Innocensio Altarez

9:30 am Agnes Snowden

11:30am For The People of the Parish

Please Pray for: †The Sick and Homebound In Our Parish:

Phil Ates; Virgie Azarcon; Ann Benson; Leslie Berkey; Barbara Brink; Margaret Carr; Fidel dela Cuesta; Don and Muriel Delaney; Eleanor DeMarco; Lisa Farland; Dennis George; Cristin Green; Francis Greenfield; Leslie Hand; Joseph Harrison; Charles Henry; Lena Jacobs; Father Keene; Robyn Kirby; Laura Elaine Kiessling; Ray Krok; Nancy Maimone; Joe Makowski; Mary McGrail; Willie (Bill) Moore; Rosemarie Nardozi; Mary Nelson; David Obi; Peter O'Neill; Alice Parker; Dawn Pearson; June Provini; Rohland Reich; Joe Sico; Walter Stewart; Margaret Zanin; Ryan Zawada **†For The Deceased:** Mary Ford (mother of Pat Wilson, our school principal) **†Names will be placed on our prayer list for three weeks. To add a name or to request continuing prayers, contact Tara Guevara by phone at 301-459-4814 or email tguevara@stmatthias.org.**

Youth Group

Talent Showcase: Do you remember the 70's and the 80's? Our Youth Group is putting on a Showcase of Talents from this time period and we need your help! Do you remember the Music, Dances, TV Commercials, History Tidbits, the Attire or more? Did you ever want to be a Supreme, Beatle, Jackson 5 or Osmond? Then here is your opportunity. Parents teach your child about those things that you enjoyed about the 70's and the 80's! Please watch the Bulletin for information on how you can be a part of or contribute to the process! Let's have some fun! Call Mrs. Moore in the rectory for further details at 301-459-4814.

SCHOOL RAFFLE WINNERS

Congratulations to David & Sonya Brooks
Winners & Sellers
of this week's winning raffle ticket!

Congratulations to Mrs. Mary Young
Winner & Seller
of last week's winning raffle ticket!

