



Saint Wenceslaus Catholic Church

*Friar Timothy Dore, OFM Cov.
Pastor*

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Pastoral Associate*

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Lyceum

2100 E. Madison St.....410-675-3320

*St. Wenceslaus is "twinned" with St. Ann Church,
at Greenmount Ave. and E. 22nd St.
410-235-8169*

*Masses at St. Ann: Sunday – 9:45 a.m.
Thursday - 7:00 p.m.*

MASSES

SUNDAY
WEEKDAYS
HOLYDAYS

8:00 and 11:45 am
8:00 am
As announced in the bulletin

CONFESSIONS:

Please contact the parish office to schedule an appointment for confessions

DEVOTIONS:

Infant of Prague Novena - Tuesdays at 8:30 a.m.

Our Lady of Perpetual Help Novena - Wednesdays at 8:30 a.m.

First Friday Holy Hour for Vocations - 8:30 a.m.

BAPTISMS:

Adult candidates and parents of infants are invited to contact the pastor so that we can begin preparations for baptism.

MARRIAGE:

We extend a warm welcome to couples desiring to be married in the church. Please contact us early (six months or more) so that we can work with you to prepare for your wedding.

PASTORAL CARE OF THE SICK:

Please notify the pastor when a member is unable to come to church. We will be happy to provide pastoral care at home or in the hospital.

SUNDAY SCHOOL:

Sunday School classes for children and youth meet every Sunday in the Lyceum from 9:30 to 11:30A.M. To register call the church office or Ms. Edith Pumphrey, Director, at 410-488-7069.

PARISH MEMBERSHIP:

We urge you to register as a member of the parish, so that we can keep you informed of church activities. We will be happy to provide you with church envelopes to assist you in the support of the church. You may register in person at the church office weekdays between 9:00 to 2:00 or by completing the following form.

Name _____

Street _____

Phone _____ Zip _____

Check:

New Registration Moving out of Parish

Change of Address Want Envelopes

Catholic Review Yes No

Please cut out and drop in the collection box or mail to the rectory.

SAINT WENCESLAUS CHURCH

Fourth Sunday of Lent

March 6, 2016

From the Pastor . . .

My Sisters and Brothers:

The Parable of the Prodigal Son is one of Jesus' most well-known and recited lessons (*see Luke 15:1-3, 11-32*). In telling this story, Jesus intended to challenge the thinking of the Pharisees, scribes, and others who had criticized him for associating with tax collectors and sinners. It's not difficult to understand its teaching about the great love, mercy, and forgiveness of God the Father. According to the parable, the son squandered his inheritance on immoral and loose living in a foreign and faithless land, and then as a result of his misdeeds ended up even worse off than pigs. Clearly, this young man would have been counted among the greatest of sinners, perhaps even among the ranks of the absolutely "*unforgivable*." Although the whole story is packed with symbolism and meaning, I believe one of the most poignant details has to do with those pigs, and how it clearly illustrated just how low and desperate the prodigal son had become. We are told he "*hired himself out to one of the local citizens who sent him to his farm to tend the swine . . . and he longed to eat his fill of the pods on which the swine fed, but nobody gave him any*" (*see verses 15 and 16*). To those who first heard the preaching of Jesus, this particular point would have added incredible and tremendous severity to the dire situation in which the young man had found himself. At that time, and as adherents to strict *kosher* diets, Jewish people simply did not eat pork. It was also not permissible even to own or to work on a pig farm. To this day in the Jewish state of Israel the breeding of pigs is almost entirely illegal, and is only allowed in northern areas inhabited by Christian Palestinians. Accordingly, pigs were and are considered to be the most filthy (*and therefore ungodly*) of animals. No good and faithful Jew at the time of Jesus would have had anything to do with them. And so not only had the son become the servant of a gentile pig farmer, and was forced to live with such filthy animals, but to make matters even more dire, the pigs were eating better than he was. Those who heard Jesus tell this story, and how he included the severity of this detail, would have understood that the son had sunken to the level of the lowest of the low, even to the point of being absolutely "*unforgivable*," and you couldn't get *any worse* than that! I believe this is the principal reason why the generous and merciful love, and the forgiveness of the father, would have seemed so incredible to those who first heard the parable. Jesus himself had been criticized by the Pharisees and scribes because he had been seen associating with tax collectors and other sinners. Perhaps by comparison to Jesus' own show of compassion, the treatment of the son by his father demonstrated an even greater mercy and love than that for which he himself had been criticized. I believe this is the very point of the story. Of course it was necessary for the son to reach the conclusion to change his life, and to seek the forgiveness of his father, but it wouldn't have been possible if the father had considered his sins to be absolutely "*unforgivable*." And so today, as we contemplate this great and often quoted parable, we might ask ourselves if there are "*sinners*" in our own time and place who we might consider to be absolutely "*unforgivable*?" If so, are we willing to reach out to them and to show them the compassion of Jesus? Even more than that, are we willing to offer them the same kind of love, mercy, and forgiveness shown by our Father in heaven? As we continue our Lenten journey, may we be grateful that this same forgiving God has called each of us away from the death of sin, has welcomed us into his loving arms, and has promised us the fullness of Easter life! May we treat others as we ourselves have been treated!

Praise God! *Friar Timothy*

PRAYER REQUESTS

Please keep in prayer the eternal rest of Joseph H. Boone, Sr., husband of Hattie Boone, who died on February 21 and whose funeral took place on March 5 at St. Wenceslaus.

Remember also in your prayers all parishioners who are sick or recovering from an illness, relatives, friends, our city, those who serve our country in the military and all the needs recorded in our parish prayer intention book.

CORRECTION PARISH COUNCIL

The monthly meeting of the Parish Council will be held on Tuesday, March 8, at 7:00 pm in the rectory.

SPRING INVESTMENT CLUB

Today is the first drawing in our ten-week Spring Investment Club. Please make all returns as quickly as possible. Additional tickets are available in the office.

SAINT WENCESLAUS CHURCH
Fourth Sunday of Lent
March 6, 2016

LENTEN FISH FRY

St. Wenceslaus Sunday School sponsored **Carryout Fish Fry** continues this **Friday, March 4th from 3:00 – 7:00 pm** in the **church rectory**. Cost: Dinner \$10 and Fish Sandwich \$5. Order forms on table in back of church.

READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY
 Fifth Sunday of Lent

1st Reading	Joshua 43:16–21
2 nd Reading	Philippians 3:8–14
Gospel	John 8:1–11

MASS INTENTIONS

Sun,	Mar 6	8:00 am	Francis O'Rourke, CSSR For Parishioners
		11:45	
Tues,	Mar 8	8:00	Rev. Thomas Rozlousky
Wed,	Mar 9	8:00	Anna Mae Walters
Thur,	Mar 10	7:00	No Intentions Noted at This Time (Gift of Hope)
Fri,	Mar 11	8:00	Philip Sanda & Family

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

In preparation for Easter we are asking for volunteers to help with cleaning the church on Saturday, March 12 from 10 am – 12 pm.

PRAYER WALK

Bishop Madden will lead his next Prayer Walk for Peace on **Wednesday, March 9, at St. Ignatius Church**, Calvert and Madison Streets starting with a light meal served at 5:30 pm in Ignatian hall. Violence in our city is a concern for all of us, so everyone is invited to join in this common witness for peace.

FASHION AND TALENT SHOWCASE

Family & Friends fundraiser event, celebrating the lives of our Youth and Young Adults. **Saturday, March 19 from 3 pm – 7 pm**. Flyers and volunteer signup sheets on table in back of church. For more information contact Judy Singleton, 410-845-7351.

MEN'S CLUB BREAKFAST RAFFLE...

The Men's Club will hold a raffle drawing on April 3, 2016. Prizes include a 32" HDTV, \$75.00, Walmart Gift Card, and a \$50.00 Outback Restaurant Gift Certificate. Raffle tickets are a donation of \$1 each or seven for \$5, available from the Men's Club members and the church office.

PRE-NATIONAL BLACK CATHOLIC CONGRESS
 Calling All Parishioners, Pastors, Youth Groups and Young Adults to attend the **Pre-National Black Catholic Congress Gathering** in preparation for Congress XII to be held in 2017. **Saturday, March 12 from 1 pm – 3 pm at St. Cecilia Church Hall, 3301 Windsor Ave.** (Parking available) Refreshments will be served, please R.S.V.P. by March 8. Register with Office of Black Catholic Ministries: OBCM@archbalt.org (Email) or 410-625-8472 (Office)

WEEKLY ATTENDANCE & COLLECTIONS

	Masses	Attendance	Collection
2/28/2016	8:00 am	53	
	11:45 am	<u>50</u>	
Total		103	\$2,063.39
Last Year's Total – 3/1/2015			\$2,682.54

OUTSIDE THE PARISH. . .

Soup and Scripture at St. Ann. Each Wednesday, from **February 17 to March 16**, St. Ann's Church will host a meal of soup and bread at **6:15 pm**, followed by a presentation and discussion on the themes of *"Doorway to Mercy: Daily Reflections with The Message"*.

St. Ann's Spring Fling Friday April 1. Shrimp and Bull Roast, Columbus Gardens from 8 pm to 12 pm. Donation of \$45. Raffle drawing: 1st Prize-39" Flat Screen TV, 2nd Prize-\$100 Gift Card. **For tickets contact Cynthia Johnson at 443-854-8094.** All money due by March 18.

St. Matthew Church Hall...The Saint and the Sultan: An interfaith exploration of the encounter between St. Francis of Assisi and Sultan Malik al-Kamil of Egypt during the Crusades. Featuring: Imam Mohammad Bashir Afafat; Sr. Patricia Hutchinson, OSF; and Rev. William A. Au. **Saturday, March 12 ~ 9:00am – 12:30pm: 8:30am – Registration & refreshments;** Register at: www.pfmjpi.org/register. On-site: \$15. Early Bird: \$10 (before March 9). Students: \$5 Scholarships Available - Donations Welcome. Sponsor: P. Francis Murphy Initiative for Justice & Peace with generous support from the Franciscan Sisters of Philadelphia.

Baltimore St. Patrick Parade & Mass: The Archdiocese of Baltimore will once again host the official Mass of the St. Patrick Parade on **Sunday, March 13th at 10:45am at the Basilica in Baltimore.** Archbishop William Lori will celebrate the Mass, which will also feature traditional Irish music. Faculty, students and families of Catholic schools are also invited to march in the parade. Contact your Catholic school for details. For more information about the parade, visit www.irishparade.net.

READ THE BULLETIN ON LINE

Missed church because of illness or the weather? Keep up by reading the weekly bulletin on line at www.stwen.org.

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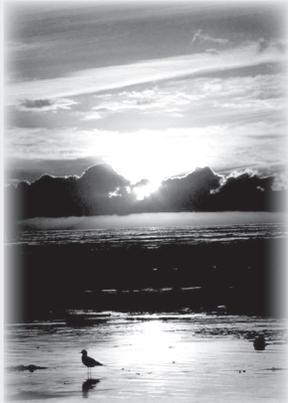
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