



# Saint Wenceslaus Catholic Church

*Friar Timothy Dore, OFM Cov.  
Pastor*

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Pastoral Associate*

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Web site: <http://www.stwen.org>

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**  
**Thirtieth Sunday In Ordinary Time**  
**October 23, 2016**

## *From the Pastor . . .*

### **My Sisters and Brothers:**

In today's reading from the Book of Sirach, we find the words "*the prayer of the lowly pierces the clouds*" (see chapter 35, verse 21a). What a wonderful lead-in to the Gospel's *Parable of the Pharisee and the Publican* in which the tax collector prays the words "*O God, be merciful to me a sinner*" (see Luke 18:9-14). I love the message of these Scriptures! They invite us to be humble, and they remind us of the great mercy of God. And I believe they also speak of a Father in heaven who loves each of us more than we can ever possibly imagine!

Whenever I read today's parable, I'm compelled to examine my conscience about which of the two characters I can more identify. Perhaps it moves you to a similar reflection. We might then ask the following questions: Are we like the Pharisee who prided himself on his faith and good works, and who even claimed to be more worthy of God's love than those who were simple and very humble? Or are we like the tax collector who recognized all of his failures, had fear in the temple, and while not daring to raise his eyes to heaven, begged for God's mercy?

Perhaps each one of us can recall moments when we could have identified with either of these scriptural characters. At times, like the Pharisee, we may have been filled with "*spiritual pride*" and may have been arrogantly and overly confident about our "*religious selves*." As such, we may have been tempted to exaggerate the importance of our pious practices, and this actually may have been detrimental to our otherwise faithful hearts. Or worse, we may have thought ourselves better than others, especially those who are marginalized, and holding such people in contempt, we may have unkindly judged and/or condemned them as "*sinners*" and unworthy of our respect. In contrast, and like the tax collector, we may have had moments when we doubted God's mercy, and have been too unsure about our worthiness to speak to God in prayer. We may have thought our weaknesses, and the "*sins*" of our lives, have overwhelmed any hope of our being loved by God. With such thinking, and like the tax collector, we may have felt isolated from the community, and consequently we may have "*kept a distance from God, and then not dared to raise our eyes to heaven*."

Today, the clear message is God has far more respect and mercy toward those who humble themselves than for those who do not. With this in mind, it's always good to remember those words "*the prayers of the lowly pierce the clouds!*" And so we must not in any way be like the Pharisee, but in fact more like the meek and repentant tax collector! Let's then humble ourselves and approach our compassionate God with repentant hearts; we are assured by the Scriptures we will then know that our Father in heaven loves each one of us more than we can ever possibly imagine! As children so regarded and so loved, may we never consider ourselves better than our fellow human beings, especially those thought to be the greatest of sinners, and/or those whose life struggles are more than we can ever understand. Let's always remember that mercy is shown to those who show mercy. Amen!

**Praise God!** *Friar Timothy*

### PRAYER REQUESTS

Please continue to pray for our sick and homebound, especially **Arnold Anderson, Donald Benedict, Beatrice Hradsky, Irene Gist, Sheila Lambert, Albert J. Novak, II, Mary Schwartz, Charles Supik, and Joan Pittman**. Remember also in your prayers Fr. Timothy and his family, relatives, friends, our city, those who serve our country in the military

and all the needs recorded in our parish prayer intention book.

### ALTAR FLOWERS

Main altar flowers were given by Mary Clayton for Special Intentions. Flowers for Julia & Raymond Lyons were given by their son Arthur.



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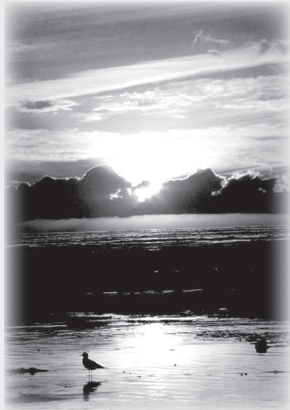
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