



# Saint Wenceslaus Catholic Church

*Friar Timothy Dore, OFM Cov.  
Pastor*

**Rogelio D'Almeida**  
*Pastoral Associate*

*Barbara Nobles*  
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*Parish Office*

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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**  
**Seventh Sunday In Ordinary Time**  
**February 19, 2017**

## *From the Pastor . . .*

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

We should be honest and confess today's most poignant Scriptural lessons are difficult to completely accept. They tell us to love our enemies, and to harbor no hatred in our hearts towards any other person. Therefore, many thoughts may go through our minds as we contemplate these admonitions, and they may actually make us feel "conflicted" as we try to process them. After all, our world is filled with all kinds of "enemies" jeopardizing us one way or another. Some threaten us on a global scale (*those who cause wars, terrorism, genocide, economic oppression, and environmental abuse, would certainly fit into these categories*); others may pose menacing threats to peace and justice within our society and nation (*examples of those responsible for religious and political intolerance, corporate greed, racism and bigotry, come to my mind*); still others simply may be the immediate "enemies" we might face in our ordinary everyday lives (*threatening and marauding strangers, "toxic" people we know, abrasive community members, abusive employers, unfriendly neighbors, difficult family members, and the list goes on*). And so, as we contemplate the many different types of "enemies" out there, it may be difficult to endure any thought of replacing hatred for them with any kind of "love."

We wonder if Jesus' teachings above "love" and "hate" really apply to us, and so we may have the following types of thoughts:

*"Although I want to be faithful to Jesus in my life, actually I do want to hate my enemies, I want to hold on to my resentments toward them, and I find some kind of satisfaction when I allow myself to dwell on the hurts of the past, and it's delightful for me to calculate my revenge against those who've wronged me and others. I rationalize all these feelings and thoughts because I've convinced myself I have the right to seek justice, and therefore the logical conclusion is that true justice involves punishing, or at least ostracizing, those who've caused me and others any harm. I've therefore assured myself my never-ending-rage is automatically absolved, because the gross iniquities committed against me and others were so "ungodly," and were so undeserving of "love." The lessons of today's Scriptures obviously don't apply to me. Or do they?"*

But as we try to make sense of all of these feelings, let's recall the words of the author of Leviticus found in today's first reading. He wrote: "*You shall not bear hatred for your brother or sister in your heart. . . . though you may have to reprove your fellow citizen, do not incur sin because of him . . . . you shall love your neighbor as yourself*" (see Leviticus 19:17). In other words, it will at times be necessary "to take to task" and "to admonish" others who might threaten, endanger, or menace us, but because we are "godly people," we must never allow their toxicity to define who we are called to be. And as Christians let's remember we are called to be *compassionate, forgiving, generous, honest, joyful, loving, patient, peaceful, self-controlled, tolerant and wise (among other things)*. These traits have everything to do with who we are, and how we must act towards others. The maliciousness of others, on the other hand, must never define who we are and what we are called to be. I believe this really is the message of Jesus concerning how we are to love others, and never to allow hatred to rule our hearts.

There are challenging threats to the call to love others, and these might have to be dealt with on global scales, within our society and nation, and/or within our ordinary daily lives, and indeed they may cause us to feel "conflicted" on many levels. My friends, may it not be so! Instead, may we rise above the conflict, and then perhaps we can then actually follow some advice from a phrase made popular in the recent political season: "*When they go low, we go high!*"

**Praise God!** *Friar Timothy*

### PRAYER REQUESTS

Continue to keep in prayer our sick and homebound members, especially **Arnold Anderson, Donald**

**Benedict, Shrene Burnett, Beatrice Hradsky, Irene Gist, Sheila Lambert, Kimberly Lambert, Rosetta Lane, Albert J. Novak, II, Mary Schwartz, Charles**



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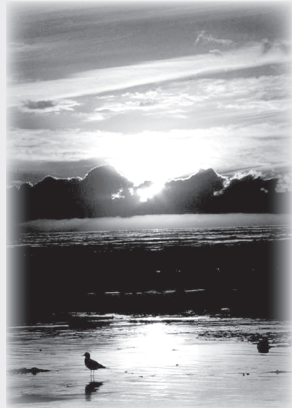
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