



Saint Wenceslaus Catholic Church

Rev. Xavier Edet, S.S.J.

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The Lucielle Fitzgerald Outreach Center

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*St. Wenceslaus is Pastorate with
St. Ann Church, at Greenmount Ave.
and E. 22nd St., 410-235-8169 and
St. Francis Xavier Church,
1501 E. Oliver St., 410-727-3103*

PASTORATE MASS SCHEDULES

SATURDAY St. Francis Xavier: 5:00 pm
SUNDAY St. Francis Xavier: 8:00 am & 11:00 am; St. Wenceslaus 9:00 am; St. Ann: 11:00 am
WEEKDAYS Tues. 8:00 am & First Friday Adoration and Mass : 8:00 am (as announced in bulletin) - St. Wenceslaus
Wed. 10:00 am & Fri 8:00 am - St. Francis Xavier; Thurs. 7:00 pm - St. Ann
HOLY DAYS As announced in the bulletin

CONFESSIONS:

Please contact the parish office to schedule an appointment for confessions

DEVOTIONS:

Prayer Before the Crucifix Novena -

Tuesdays at 8:00 a.m.

First Friday Holy Hour for Vocations - 8:00 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 Church rectory from 10:30 to 11:30 a.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 CATHOLIC CHURCH
Twenty-Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time
September 30, 2018

This Week's Reflections . . .

My Sisters and Brothers:

I think all of us would agree we are far more likely to forgive those whom we love, than those for whom we harbor ill feelings. If family members or friends really have unconditional love for one another, it seems problems are often easily solved! For example, I think most parents would stand by their children, even when they might have committed the most grievous of errors; of course, parents only hope their children will learn from their mistakes and become better people. And we also know how young people in love will often accept their partner's limitations and weaknesses because of their strong attraction to and affection for the other. The expression "*love is blind*" is so true! It can be easy to forgive those we love dearly! Yet somehow as Christians we are called to have this kind of attitude towards all (*and all means "all"*).

Today, in both the Old Testament reading, and in the Gospel, we are given examples of religious people who strove to preserve their own authority while over-confidently wishing to condemn others (*see Numbers 11:25-29 and Mark 9:38-43, 45, 47-48*). And these were people closely associated with holy and righteous faith-leaders and who should have known better! They wanted to condemn the others because they were not following what they believed to be the "*official*" way of doing things. And so in these examples any thought of being merciful and forgiving towards the *nemeses* was not operative. Joshua, who had been a faithful servant of Moses, wanted to condemn two men, Eldad and Medad, because they were prophesying "*outside the tent*," and not with the other elders. But Moses had a broader vision of how the work of God was to be done, and he wished even more people could have been prophets, even if they weren't in the "*inner circle*." In the Gospel, John the Apostle informed Jesus there were some people performing miracles in the Lord's name, but who supposedly didn't have proper authority to do so. But Jesus rebuked John as he proclaimed: "*Do not prevent them . . . whoever is not against us is for us!*"

If we study the history of the Christian Church, we will find that many times throughout the centuries Christians have persecuted one another because of terrible divisions within the Church. We know all-too-well that appalling things have been done in the name of God throughout the ages. We know some such divisions sadly still exist and unfortunately even today shameful things continue to be done in the name of God. While it may be a nearly impossible task for the Church to heal from these centuries' old wounds, all of us are called to do our part to contribute to the healing of the rifts and sins. Beginning with faith in God's ultimate justice over the misdeeds of human beings, for our part we are called to have a never-ending hope for forgiveness and reconciliation for all. This may start when we simply do our best to be loving and accepting, and even very forgiving, of people with whom we disagree. I believe the healing of wounds that divide people starts in the hearts and homes of those who truly follow the example of Jesus in the way they live their lives. For my part and for those really big issues out there I just can't "*put my head around*," I think it best to keep my own peace while deferring to the eternal justice of God!

As we contemplate today's Scripture readings, let's recall we are called to be joyful when God's name is proclaimed and glorified. If those doing the proclaiming and the glorifying are not exactly like we are, what difference does it make? Therefore, let's strive to be like those who "*love blindly*," and let's put a little more faith in God's ultimate justice as we react to the faults and failings we perceive in others. Then we might just come to realize our *nemeses* aren't worth the negative attention we might otherwise have wanted to give them. My friends, let's encourage each other with this message!

Praise God! *Friar Timothy*

PRAYER REQUEST

Keep in prayer our sick, homebound and recovering members, especially **Essie Allen** (presently in Bayview Hospital), **Jean Bennett** (Naomi Bennett's daughter-in-

law), **Denise Branch** (Audrey Wesson & Jerry Branch sister), **Irene Gist**, **Fr. John Raymond Lyons** (Arthur Lyons brother), **Albert J. Novak, II and Evelyn Turner**. Remember also Fr. Xavier, family, friends, the elderly, the lonely, the poor, destitute, unemployed,

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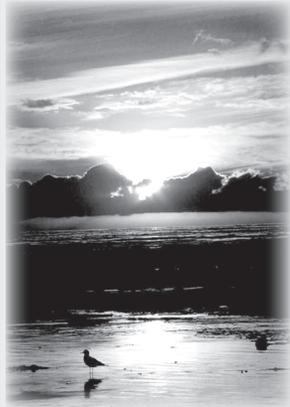
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