

**AUGUST 13, 2017
NINETEENTH SUNDAY
IN ORDINARY TIME**

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Anyone with a hint of common sense knows that when a storm approaches, you should seek shelter immediately. No one wants to be caught in a storm (unless you are one of those crazy storm chasers) and if you ever have been caught outside in a storm, you know just how unsettling and even terrifying it can be. An even worse scenario would be to get caught in a storm while in a boat. Not good! Today, St. Matthew gives us such a scene where we read that the disciples were in a boat that was being "*tossed about by the waves, for the wind was against it.*" In the midst of their terror, Jesus comes walking toward them on the water which scares them even more because they thought He was a ghost. Nowadays the disciples would have been sent to counseling for post-traumatic stress disorder. Jesus however, calmed them quickly by calling to them and identifying Himself.

Here we see Peter as the only person to recognize Jesus and for a moment, he was actually walking on water. His big mistake was that he took his eyes off of Jesus and focused on the chaos around him. Immediately when fear takes over, he begins to sink. Jesus rescues him and reprimands him for doubting and for being a person of little faith. Peter is a mixture of courage and anxiety and here his anxiety dominates. However, Peter had the courage to act; he had the courage to get out of the boat. He may have gotten distracted rather quickly, but he did not allow his fear to paralyze him. Even when he began to sink, he cried out to the Lord, for he knew that Jesus would save him. We can't be too disappointed in Peter because fear and anxiety have a way of getting to us as well.

Our lives are full of storms, they come and they go; setbacks, disappointments, loss, grief,

sorrow, depression. There is a temptation to take shelter, to be safe and to stay put. Fear can be paralyzing. Unlike real, meteorological events, these metaphorical storms must be confronted. The issue here is having the courage to ride the storm out, firmly believing that the Lord is present and will see us through it. Peter had the right idea at first: he left the safety of the boat in order to seek Jesus. Had he kept his focus on Jesus, Peter would have most likely walked to him through the violence of the wind. Instead his attention shifted to the storm and his fear got the best of him, he forgot that Jesus was present, and he began to sink.

There is something for us to reflect upon here: Jesus was not in the boat; He was in that hostile environment into which we often fear to enter and instead huddle in the security of safe places. Jesus was outside of the boat in the middle of the stormy sea. We have to leave our safe and comfortable places to go out to meet Him in spite of the dangers and possible setbacks. We must keep our eyes on the Lord and firmly understand that He is always present to us. The great truth is that wherever Jesus Christ is, the wildest of storms become calm. He can and will calm the storms that cause us trepidation.

We often fear what we do not see. As we come forward to receive our Lord today in the Eucharist, carrying all our problems and concerns, let us remember that Jesus is always present waiting for us. He is there stretching out his comforting and saving hand so that we may not sink in our storms of life. He continues to tell us every day, "Take courage, it is I; do not be afraid."

May God bless you,

Monsignor Hurley

HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION

The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary

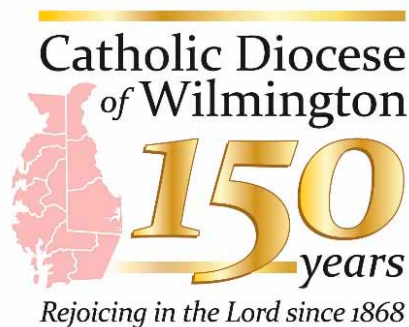
Mass Schedule

Monday, August 14 – 6PM Vigil Mass

Tuesday, August 15 – 8AM

The Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary is a defined dogma of the Catholic Church. The Feast of the Assumption, celebrated every year on August 15, is a very old feast of the Church, celebrated universally since the sixth century. It commemorates the death of Mary and her bodily assumption into Heaven, before her body could begin to decay - a foretaste of our own bodily resurrection at the end of time. Because it signifies the Blessed Virgin's passing into eternal life, it is the most important of all Marian feasts.

PILGRIMAGE SIGN-UP EXTENDED



As part of the Diocese of Wilmington's 150th anniversary celebration, a pilgrimage to Annecy, Rome and Assisi will take place April 16 – 26, 2018.

Annecy, the birthplace of Saint Francis de Sales, patron saint of the Diocese of Wilmington, is an alpine town in southeastern France, where Lake Annecy feeds into the Thiou River. Rome, Italy's capital, is a sprawling, cosmopolitan city with nearly 3,000 years of globally influential art, architecture and culture on display, including ancient ruins such as the Forum and the Colosseum. It is the home of Vatican City, headquarters of the Roman Catholic Church, St. Peter's Basilica and the Vatican Museums, as well as the burial place of Blessed Pope Pius IX, the diocese's founder. Assisi is a hill town in central Italy's Umbria region. It was the birthplace of St. Francis, one of Italy's patron saints. Caravelle Tours has extended the deadline to August 15. Space is limited and reservations will be taken on a first come, first served basis. For more information go to www.cdow.org/anniversary-pilgrimage.

LAST WEEKEND'S OFFERTORY
\$4,743.00
Thank you for your generosity

MASS INTENTIONS

Monday, August 14

6:00pm – Samuel Trioli

Tuesday, August 15

8:00am – Jean Stephano

Wednesday, August 16

8:00am – Julia Panaccione

Thursday, August 17

8:00am – Duffy Reifsnnyder

Saturday, August 19

5:00pm – Timothy Robinson

Sunday, August 20

8am – Mass for the People
10am – Rosina & Pietro Pesce

MARRIAGE AND FAMILY

Marriage Moments: In August we celebrate the Feast of the Assumption of Mary in which we honor her important role in Jesus' life from her initial "Yes" to her presence with the apostles after his death. Although we don't expect to be assumed into heaven, spouses sometimes get into trouble by assuming they know what the other thinks. Don't mind read. Check it out with words.

Parenting Pointers: As children grow older they often balk at doing "religious" stuff with their family. Be creative about inviting your children into faith experiences. Ask what THEY think would be a meaningful way to "serve the Lord." It might seem crazy, but try it once.

VOCATION REFLECTION

In today's first reading, God uses a "tiny whispering sound" to call the prophet Elijah in the midst of wind, earthquakes and fire. He does the same today: in the midst of hundreds of cable and satellite channels and millions of internet websites, God still speaks gently. It

takes discipline and desire to try to listen for His voice. How are *you* doing with that? If you'd like to learn more, please call or write Father Norm Carroll, Diocesan Director of Priestly and Religious Vocations (302-573-3113 or vocations@cdow.org). Be sure to visit our website: www.cdot.org/vocations!

CATHEDRAL OF SAINT PETER

The Cathedral of Saint Peter is in need of our help. The weekend of August 19 & 20, a special collection for the maintenance and preservation of the Cathedral of Saint Peter will be taken up in all parishes in our diocese. Please be as generous as you can. For more information about the Cathedral, please visit the Cathedral's website at www.cathedralofstpeter.com. For a video tour of the Cathedral, special video message from Father Klein the Cathedral's Administrator, and a tour of the Cathedral's 99 year-old organ, visit the diocesan website at www.cdot.org. Together, we can help assure that our Cathedral will remain a place of beauty and prayer for generations to come.

GOD IS ON THE AIR

Listen to Catholic Forum every Sunday morning at 10:05 a.m. on WDEL 101.7 FM, 1150 AM and www.wdel.com. Next Sunday, August 20th, Marilyn Henry will discuss the upcoming Catholic Grandparents Association Conference. For photos, information regarding upcoming guests, podcasts and more, "Like" Catholic Forum on Facebook at www.facebook.com/catholicforum. Listen to past episodes of Catholic Forum online at cdow.org/communications or search "Catholic Forum" on Apple Podcasts or iHeartRadio podcasts.

PRAY FOR THOSE WHO HAVE DRIFTED

Please join us in praying for our families and friends on the Feast of St. Monica, Sunday, August 27, 2017. We will be praying together to bring back all those who have fallen away from the Church at a special Devotional Event at St Hedwig Church, 408 S. Harrison Street, Wilmington, DE. 3pm Exposition of the Blessed

Sacrament, Confession, Rosary, Benediction and 4pm Holy Mass. Come fill out a Tear Drop card for your loved ones and all who have fallen away from the church, all are welcome.

For more information

12374columbiettes@gmail.com

BRICK IT

There are two ways you can "Brick It"

THE FIRST is to purchase a brick to be placed in the memorial walk at the front of the church. You can honor a loved one or just make a dedication, Bricks are placed prior to All Souls Day, but cutoff date to order is the weekend after Labor Day.

THE SECOND is to own a piece of history. We still have the actual bricks from the original church/school/gym that was demolished recently. You can purchase a brick with a donation to our St. Vincent DePaul Society.

To Order either brick, go to the Saint Thomas web page (sainttom.org) or call the rectory.

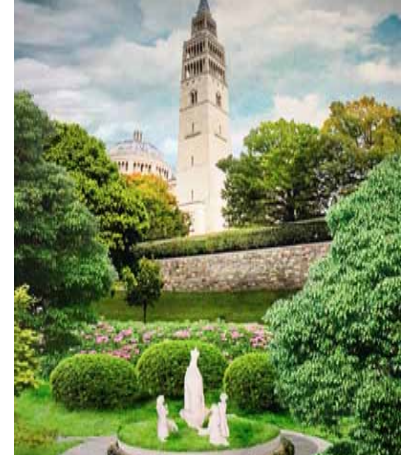
SAINT MAXIMILLIAN KOLBE, OFM CONV.

(January 8, 1894 – August 14, 1941) was a polish Conventual Franciscan friar, who volunteered to die in place of a stranger in the German death camp of Auschwitz, located in German-occupied Poland during world war ii. Kolbe was canonized on October 10, 1982 by Pope John Paul II, and declared a martyr of charity. He is the patron saint of drug addicts, political prisoners, families, journalists, prisoners, and the pro-life movement.

BAPTISM

For parents who wish to have their babies baptized the next class will take place on Tuesday, September 12, at 7:00pm in the church. For further information and to register, please call the rectory office at 658-5131.

**Catholic Diocese of Wilmington Marian Pilgrimage
with Bishop W. Francis Malooly at the
Basilica Shrine of the Immaculate Conception,
Washington, D.C.
September 30, 2017, 10AM-4PM**



**During the centennial of Our Lady of Fatima, come, rejoice in the Lord
with Bishop Malooly and priests of the Diocese of Wilmington
on pilgrimage to the nation's spiritual capital and shrine
of the patroness of the United States, The Immaculate Conception**

*Come pray where Pope Francis, Pope Benedict XVI, Pope St. John Paul II
and St. Teresa of Calcutta prayed during their visits to the United States*

* Visit the site of the first saint canonized on American soil, St. Junipero Serra

* *Take a guided tour of the Basilica,
home of the largest collection of contemporary ecclesiastical art in the world*

* Participate in the Sacrament of Reconciliation

* *Pray through Our Lady at over 40 chapels dedicated to her many titles*

* Visit the recently-dedicated Our Lady of Fatima Rosary Walk and Garden

* *Participate in the Sacred Mass with Bishop Malooly*

* Visit the souvenir shops and have your Marian souvenir blessed

* *Be among the first to glimpse part of the Trinity Dome to be unveiled in December*

* Be a part of salvation history by bringing your petitions, family, friends and, above all,
yourself, to Jesus through Mary, the Immaculate Conception

**Consult your parish liaison for more details
including transportation to and from the Basilica.**