

**February 4, 2018  
THE FIFTH SUNDAY  
IN ORDINARY TIME**

**FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK**

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

*"Is not man's life on earth a drudgery?"*

I'm willing to bet that every one of you have thought or said something similar to this opening line from today's first reading from the Book of Job. I know I have. And what do you think about the last sentence from this reading? *"I shall not see happiness again."* Depressing stuff, right? We come to Mass to be uplifted and yet sometimes we are greeted with readings such as this one from Job or maybe one from the Book of Lamentations. These readings are not meant to bring us down, rather they give expression to human suffering while exposing the realities of life. Sometimes life can seem like drudgery and there are times that we feel like we will never see happiness again.

While most of us have not suffered to the extent of Job, we have experienced what was sent forth in today's first reading -- never-ending sleepless nights filled with fear, anxiety, guilt, and self-punishment. Some have felt tempted to literally curse God and die. Experiencing the loss through sudden death of people whom we love and care for, or loss through lingering illness followed by a merciful death. Many who have greatly suffered have likewise faced the temptation to curse heaven, blame God, and then resolve to die in nothingness. The temptation to blame God and then stoically endure death is a very real temptation for many people.

The Book of Job is an attempt to address the question of *why do bad things happen to good people?* Job was a good and righteous man and yet terrible things happen to him. Throughout his ordeals, Job questioned God about his misery but his faith in the Lord never wavered. Our first reading comes from Job's

lowest point, his deepest sadness. Job reminds us that sadness, loss, and disappointment are all a part of the human experience. It is true that some people have more crosses to bear than others and that truly horrific events unfold in the lives of some and not others. There seems to be no rhyme or reason for this... it just is. Suffering is inevitable in life. In the face of suffering we are powerless and we try to find meaning to it.

In Christianity, the attitude towards suffering is quite basic and definitive. It is the suffering of Christ that gives meaning to our sufferings. Christ has come as the redeemer and the conqueror of suffering and of death. He does not limit his healing mission to the physical sufferings alone but seeks to heal the whole person. The inner healing of the person and the forgiveness of sins is the mission of Jesus. God intervenes in human situations to alleviate suffering, yet he permits suffering to take place. Sufferings often motivate people to seek God, and as they draw closer to Him they can understand Him better. Sometimes the only thing we can do is endure. In those times of dark despair that we all experience from time to time, it is important to remember the sufferings of Christ and His ultimate victory. Job in many ways is a precursor to Jesus who gives us an outstanding example of fidelity to God. We must always trust in God's fidelity as well. The Lord does not abandon us particularly in times of distress.

In the end, life is not drudgery, it is a grand adventure.

In the end, happiness will be ours.

May God bless you,

Monsignor Hurley

**BLESSING OF THROATS**

Saturday, February 3, is the Feast Day of Saint Blaisé, Bishop and Martyr. In keeping with ancient tradition, you will have the opportunity to have your throat blessed after all Masses this weekend February 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>.

## MARDI GRAS

Join us downstairs in the parish workshop on February 10, 2018 after the 5pm Mass for our annual Mardi Gras celebration. What a great way to usher in the season of Lent. We're serving Gumbo, muffulettas, beans and rice, beignets, King Cake, and beer and wine.

## SOUPER BOWL SUNDAY

Once again, the Knights of Columbus are sponsoring "Souper Bowl Sunday." Thank you for bringing your food items. The Knights will deliver these items to the Ministry of Caring, here in town. It's a great way to celebrate the Super Bowl by helping those in need.

## THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Baptism Preparation Classes will be held on Sunday following the 10:00am Mass. The next class will take place on Sunday, March 4 in the church. Do both parents have to attend the class? No, only one parent must attend, but it is highly encouraged that both do. Godparents are invited and encouraged to attend also. Please call the Parish Office to register. The Sacrament of Baptism is celebrated on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the month at 11:00am.

## BECOMING A WOMAN OF PRAYER

is a workbook to aid us in our prayer life. With your Bible in hand, study this booklet to lead you into a richer, more intimate communion with Our Lord. You may enjoy reading and meditating on the booklet privately, or you may want to join our group to discuss the readings and share the discoveries of your prayer journey. We will meet on Tuesday evenings: February 20, March 6, March 27 and April 3 at 6:30 pm at my home. If you are interested in obtaining the workbook, attending the meetings, or both; please contact Janine Iorii at 302.743.6270 or email at [j\\_iorii@comcast.net](mailto:j_iorii@comcast.net).

## LAST WEEKEND'S OFFERTORY

\$3,883.00

There will be a 2<sup>nd</sup> collection next weekend to benefit Black & Indian, & Home Missions  
Thank you for your generosity

## MASS INTENTIONS

### Monday, February 5

6:00pm – James J. Smith, Sr.

### Tuesday, February 6

8:00am – Matthew Siwinski

### Wednesday, February 7

8:00am – James T. Skilling

### Thursday, February 8

8:00am – Anthony James Penna

### Saturday, February 10

5:00pm – Costanza & Loreto Rufo

### Sunday, February 12

8:00am – Mass for the People

10am – Anthony James Penna

*Flowers on St. Joseph's Altar in  
Loving Memory of  
Mac Gardner*

## BIBLE STUDY AT ST. ANN'S

St. Ann's Parish Wilmington is offering Part I (12 sessions) of Matthew: The King and His Kingdom in the Social Hall which began Monday, January 22, and will continue every Monday at 6:30 pm to 8:15 pm through April 23 (weather makeup day April 30). The cost for the program is \$30 for the Study Guide (includes S/H). For more information or to register for the study, call Connie Winner-Varone at 302-765-9864 or via email: [cnwinner@comcast.net](mailto:cnwinner@comcast.net).

## MARRIAGE AND FAMILY

Marriage Moments: Some people like to be pampered when they are sick. Others like to be left alone. What comforts your beloved when they don't feel well?

Parenting Pointers: Feb. 2 was Ground Hog Day. Legend has it that these cute furry critters can predict the weather. Talk with your kids about what kind of weather they like best.

## VOCATION REFLECTION

In today's first reading, Job asks, "is not man's life on earth a drudgery?" Well, life *can* be a drudgery if we're trying to live a life different from the one God created us for! What is God's plan for *you*? Has He chosen *you* to serve as a priest, deacon, religious sister or religious brother? What are you doing to learn His plan for your life? If you'd like to explore further, please call or write Father Norm Carroll, Diocesan Director of Priestly and Religious Vocations (302-573-3113 or [vocations@cdow.org](mailto:vocations@cdow.org)). Be sure to visit our website: [www.cdow.org/vocations!](http://www.cdow.org/vocations!)

## MEMORIAL BRICKS

The five bricks, ordered last year, have been installed in the Memorial Walk at the front of the church. This is a great way to honor a loved one past or present, and it makes a great unusual Christmas gift. Go to the web site or call the rectory to place an order. Also, a great way to remember the original church, old school/ gym building is to buy a brick. This is a neat gift for an old alumnus. There are still bricks available at the rectory for pick up. This donation goes to the good work done by our Saint Vincent DePaul Society.

## 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](http://www.wdel.com). Next Sunday, February 11th, author, Diane Houdek, will discuss her books, "Lent with St. Francis," and "The Joy of Lent: Daily Reflections from Pope Francis." For photos, information regarding upcoming guests, podcasts and more, "Like" Catholic Forum on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/catholicforum](http://www.facebook.com/catholicforum). Listen to past episodes of Catholic Forum online at [cdow.org/communications](http://cdow.org/communications) or search "Catholic Forum" on Apple Podcasts or iHeartRadio podcasts.

## CATHOLIC CHARITIES

February is Stock the Pantry Month for Catholic Charities Participate in Catholic Charities semi-annual "Stock the Pantry" project throughout the

month of February! One in five families often must choose between making a rent or utility payment and buying food. In a single month, Catholic Charities distributes approximately 15,000 pounds of food throughout the Diocese! You can support our most vulnerable neighbors by making a donation of non-perishable food items at any Catholic Charities location. Catholic Charities will also accept gift cards to local grocery stores or cash donations. You can find the nearest Catholic Charities service center at [www.cdow.org/charities](http://www.cdow.org/charities), or call 302-655-9624. Those in need of food assistance should call the nearest Catholic Charities location.

## 33 DAYS TO MORNING GLORY

St. Ann's Parish is offering a small group retreat with Fr. Gaitley's materials and videos: [33 Days to Morning Glory in Preparation for Marian Consecration](#). The retreat will be offered on Mondays at 5 pm to 6:30 pm in the Social Hall beginning February 12, 2018, and continue to March 26 (no session on President's Day, Feb. 19) with consecration on Holy Saturday, the feast of Our Lady of the Holy Cross on March 31. Cost of the retreat materials is \$33 (already have the book? \$23 for the Study Guide). An information session will be held on Monday, February 5, at 5 pm in the Social Hall. For more information or to register for the retreat, call Connie Winner-Varone at 302-765-9864 or email: [cnwinner@comcast.net](mailto:cnwinner@comcast.net)

## COOKS FOR A CAUSE

Please join the Little Sisters of the Poor on Sunday, February 18th (3-8 pm) at Feby's Fishery, 3701 Lancaster Pike and enjoy a fabulous meal. Reservations preferred: 302-998-9501.

A percentage of the evening's proceeds will be donated to help the Little Sisters care for the needy elderly in our community. Local parish priests will serve as special "wait staff" throughout the evening. The event also includes a 50/50 raffle and silent auction items. For further information visit [www.littlesistersofthepoordelaware.org](http://www.littlesistersofthepoordelaware.org)

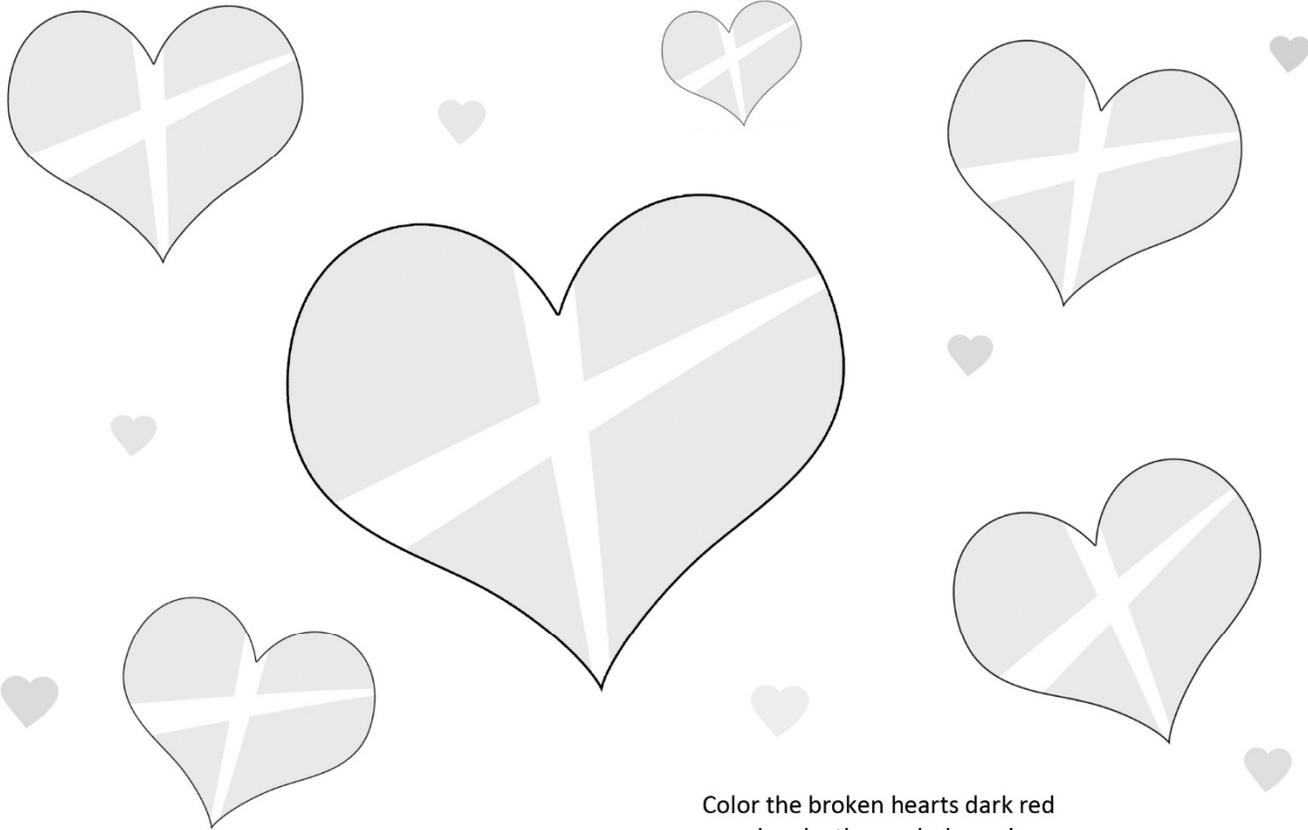
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## Gospel Today

Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time | Mark 1:29-39

Jesus healed many people as He and His disciples moved from town to town.

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Color the broken hearts dark red  
and make them whole again.

## SWEET as HONEY



J.D., if  
Jesus healed  
broken hearts,  
did He start  
Valentine's Day?

Well, Honey,  
legend says, based  
on his love for  
Jesus, St. Valentine  
(269 AD) shared  
his belief and  
love even from  
prison.

His faith  
healed the jail  
keepers daughter  
from blindness, and  
he wrote letters of  
encouragement signed,  
from your Valentine.  
Valentine's Day  
comes from love,  
and love is God's  
commandment.