

Dear Friends,

Through the prophet Jeremiah God tells the people that He is going to make a new covenant with them. It will not be like the old covenant because it will be written on their hearts. The new covenant will not erase the old one. The Ten Commandments are still in force. Jesus talks about fulfilling the Law not abolishing it, and quotes from the Scriptures all the time.

The new covenant is less about replacing one set of laws with another set of laws, than with deepening the relationship between God and the people. It will also call for a change in the relationships between people, as in the today's gospel when some Greeks approach Phillip to ask to see Jesus.

Sometimes people interpret passages like the first reading as meaning religion is to become just me and God, and my private interpretation of everything. Jesus does not eliminate obedience to law as the second reading from Hebrews points out, but He fulfills it perfectly. Jesus still tells us to fast, pray, and give alms. Jesus selects twelve apostles and gives them authority. Jesus calls us to a closer relationship to God, but also to one another. These relationships are to be ones of deed as well as word.

For the new covenant to be in our heart means that our relationship to God is to be at the center of our being. It is to be integral to who we are. It will also be central to how we relate to other people. It is Jesus who will show us this new covenant.

Jesus says that He will draw people to Himself. This new covenant will seek to draw us by being directed at our hearts. It will seek to attract us by mercy, justice, and love. The wrath of God is not something to drive us to God but is the result of continual and final rejection of God's call. This shows the depth of God's commitment to this new covenant when He is lifted up, when He is crucified.

That is what Jesus brings to this new relationship. What will you bring?

Fr. Peter Giovanoni

Maryland Day at Historic St. Mary's City-- Saturday, March 24th. This wonderful event begins at 11:00am on the grounds of the Inn at Brome Howard, located at 182841 Rosecroft Rd., St. Mary's City, MD. Keynote speaker will be Chanel Compton, representing the Maryland Commission on African American History and Culture (MCAAHC). Admission is free. For more information contact 240-895-4990 or info@hsmcdigshistory.org.



Weekend Ministries

March 24th & 25th

Palm Sunday Weekend

Saturday--5:00pm

Lector: J. Orr

Reader: L. Muir

EMs: J. Orr

Altar Servers: M. Lancaster, C. Dursee, P. Moore

Sunday--8:15am

Lector: J. Kellam

Reader: J. Dominic

EMs: J. Dominic, D. Kayser, J. Kayser

Altar Servers: K. Kovich, N. Kovich, M. Wise

Sunday--10:30am

Lector: S. Hall

Reader: F. Hall

EMs: S. Hall, H. Miller, C. Miller

Altar Servers: I. Sullivan, P. Gaydar, A. Hamilton

Sunday--6:00pm

Lector: A. Bishop

Reader: N. Abell

EMs: A. Bishop



Pray for the Sick

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| Joyce Ack | Grace Angela |
| Emma Aparicio | Vivian Barnes |
| Timothy Binder | Pam Bohmann |
| Robert Bradburn | Karen Byrne |
| Lisa Carpenter | Sue Colon |
| Jack Cullison | Catherine Dean |
| Erica Dingle | Jane Dougherty |
| Fritz Feltman | Rick Giovanoni |
| Jack Greenwell | Pam Hayden |
| Mary Agnes Hill | Jason Hoyer |
| Cameron Kalen | Jane Kenyon |
| Paul Mackie | Sid Marcus |
| Liz Marcus | Ann McDonough |
| Diane Miller | William Morris |
| Fr. O'Connell | Kay Owens |
| Lawrence Potter | Peggy Raley |
| Joel Rivera | Janet Sanders |
| Gabriel Santos | Nicole Shreve |
| Wise Tennyson | Hilda Trossbach |
| Janice Wood | Elizabeth Woodburn |

Mass Intentions

March 19th-March 25th

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| Monday | 9:00am | Patricia Olivier |
| Tuesday | 9:00am | Donald Carroll |
| Wednesday | 9:00am | Special Intentions |
| Thursday | 9:00am | Susanna Wolf |
| Friday | 9:00am | St. Michael's School |
| Saturday | 5:00pm | Addie McBride |
| Sunday | 8:15am | Robert Raley |
| Sunday | 10:30am | Jay Barickman |
| Sunday | 6:00pm | St. Michael's Parishioners |

Catechetical Corner

Eschatology is the name given in theology to the study of last things including human destiny, death, judgement, resurrection of the body, heaven, purgatory, and hell. Among these things purgatory is one of the most misunderstood.

Purgatory is the state of final purification after death before entrance into heaven for those who died in God's friendship, but were imperfectly purified. This purification is the final cleansing of human imperfection before one is able to enter the joy of heaven. (1 Cor 3:15, 1 Pet 1:7, CCC1031) Purgatory is not Hell. One cannot go from Hell to Purgatory or vice versa. Once in Purgatory you always pass on to heaven and no one stays in Purgatory forever.

The practice of praying for the dead goes back to the Old Testament in the Second Book of Maccabees 12:36. (CCC 1032) We also offer Masses, alms, indulgences, and penances on behalf of the souls in Purgatory. We do this because we believe in Christ we are all still connected. Whether we are assisting our brothers and sisters on earth or in Purgatory, we are obeying Jesus' command to care for the least among us.

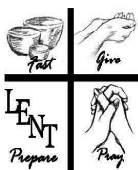
CRS Rice Bowl--We encounter Afele in Malawi, where seeds are helping her family survive an uncertain climate. How can you care for God's creation this Lent? How can you support those, worldwide, who are forced to flee their homes to find safety or better opportunities? Visit crsricebowl.org for more.

Ridge Volunteer Fire Department Auxiliary--Saturday, March 24th will hold a Brown Bag Auction at the Ridge Fire House. Browsing 11:00am-1:00pm and auction begins promptly at 1:00pm. Baked goods and drinks for sale. Tickets will be 10 for \$10 or 25 for \$20. All proceeds benefits Ridge VFD Aux Campaign Fund. If you would like to donate, please contact Jessica Snyder 240-925-7114 or Debbie Fairfax 301-904-9829.

Camp St. Charles--Boys and Girls Catholic Overnight Summer Camp. Open House March 25th or April 18th from 11:00am-3:00pm. Join us for lunch, a tour, a ride on the giant swing and an opportunity to meet the staff. Fully accredited with the American Camp Association and certified by the State of Maryland, Camp St. Charles has been run by the Salvatorian Fathers and Brothers and Lay Salvatorians for over 60 years. For more information and to sign up for an open house visit www.campstcharles.org or call 301-934-8799.

Stewardship Report

March 11th Collection \$3,517.00



Good Friday is a day of fast and abstinence. All other Fridays are days of abstinence only.

Adoration will be held every Friday during Lent except Good Friday following the 9:00am

morning Mass.

Stations of the Cross are at 7:00pm on Friday evenings.

The Light Is On For You confessions will be heard on Wednesday evenings at 5:00pm.

Bible Study on Tuesday evenings at 7:00pm. There will be no Bible Study on Mar. 27th & Apr. 3rd. Study will begin on April 10th after Easter.

"Gift: Life in the Spirit" is every Wednesday from 6:30-8:30pm in SMS Gym. Eighth grade and up are invited to attend.



St. Michael's School News



500 Club Winners for MARCH

\$50--Mary C. Abell

\$50--Karen Bain

\$100--Becket Charles Mundell-Wood

\$100--Judy Raley

\$200--Gay Fowler

Congratulations to All!

St. Michael's School Annual Auction is planned

for June 9th. We are able to accept gently used cars, boats, motorcycles or RV's in running condition. We can store and provide minor repair of donated items. Please contact Rich Muir at 240-538-1888 cell, leave



message if no answer.

Angel Wings and Things Thrift

Store--The store is open from 9:00am-4:00pm on Saturdays and from 10:00am-1:00pm on Sundays. Items can be dropped off on Saturdays between 10:00am-2:00pm. Thank you for your generous support!



Queen of Hearts--Every Friday night at the American Legion in Ridge. Tickets will be on sale from 4:00pm-7:00pm and food will be available starting at 5:00pm. Drawing at 7:00pm. Come out and support St. Michael's School for a fun night of chance!



Mark Your Calendars:

March 19--Easter Penance Service at IHM 6:30pm

March 25--Palm Sunday Breakfast, 8:30-11:00am