

*Our Lady of Fatima Catholic Church*  
*February 2018 Newsletter*



**We thank the Our Lady of Fatima Cub Scouts.** Their donation to our food closet through our partnered connection with Asbury Methodist Church was outstanding. The scouts collected loads of food to restock the shelves for the needy in our parish and community. Thanks again!



**The Knights of Columbus** hosted a spaghetti dinner on Saturday, January 20<sup>th</sup>. The proceeds from the dinner were given to the St. Vincent DePaul Society for all their hard work in taking care of the parishioners and the less fortunate in our area. Thank you again Knights for your continued support of our many ministries in the parish.



**Catholic School's week** was held from January 28<sup>th</sup> through February 3<sup>rd</sup>. Each day, All Saints Catholic School planned a way to celebrate Catholic tradition with special events. Way to go All Saints School. See their website at [ascscde.org](http://ascscde.org).

The feast of St. Blaise was celebrated with the blessing of throats on the weekend of February 3/4.



**Wednesday, February 14 – Ash Wednesday**

In the Roman Catholic Church, Ash Wednesday is the first day of Lent, the season of preparation for the resurrection of Jesus Christ on Easter Sunday.

During Mass, the ashes which give Ash Wednesday its name are distributed. The ashes are made by burning the blessed palms that were distributed the previous year on Palm Sunday.

The distribution of ashes reminds us of our own mortality and calls us to repentance. In the early Church, Ash Wednesday was the day on which those who had sinned, and who wished to be readmitted to the Church, would begin their public penance. The ashes that we receive are a reminder of our own sinfulness, and many Catholics leave them on their foreheads all day as a sign of humility.



The Church emphasizes the penitential nature of Ash Wednesday by calling us to fast and abstain from meat. Catholics who are over the age of 18 and under the age of 60 are required to fast, which means that they can eat only one complete meal and two smaller ones during the day, with no food in between. Catholics who are over the age of 14 are required to refrain from eating any meat, or any food made with meat, on Ash Wednesday and the Friday's of Lent and Good Friday. Stations of the Cross begin on Friday, February 16 in the church at 7PM.

Masses are scheduled for: 6:30AM; 8:30AM; Noon Liturgy of the Word; 5:00PM; 6:30PM; and 8:00PM Spanish Mass. **The first Sunday of Lent begins on February 18<sup>th</sup>.**

**Prayer, Penance and Works of Charity are the three-fold program of Lent. We encourage you to make this your best Lent of your life.**

**“Prayer for the good of your soul.”** We encourage you to come to daily Mass as often as possible during Lent. Mass will be celebrated Monday through Friday at 6:30AM and 8:30AM in the Chapel. On Friday's, the **Station of the Cross will be at 7:00PM** in the Church. Take each Friday as an opportunity to experience special meaning during Lent by attending the **“Way of the Cross” (Stations)**. Let this important devotion help you to: grow closer to others; strengthen your faith community; grow in faith and love and enhance your celebration of Lent.



**“Fasting for the good of your body.”** The church calls us to do penance - to have a change of heart - and as a sign of that change, to die to ourselves by fasting and abstinence. Fasting means only one full meal for those 18 to 59 years of age. Abstinence means no meat for those 14 years and older (Good Friday is a day of strict fast and abstinence.) Every Friday of Lent is a day of abstinence. While these are minimum practices of penance specified by our Church, we are urged to do something that is truly penance for us, to say “no” to legitimate desires in order to strengthen our sense of discipline and resistance to temptation.

**“Almsgiving for the good of your neighbor.”** The Lord and His church also call us to turn away from centering our lives on ourselves and our pleasure, to turn to the Lord and serve Him, especially in our needy brothers and sisters. **Operation Rice Bowl** is an excellent opportunity to encourage and participate in this meaningful Lenten observance. Give your sacrificial gifts to Operation Rice Bowl to help our sisters and brothers in need around the world through Catholic Relief Services' development projects.

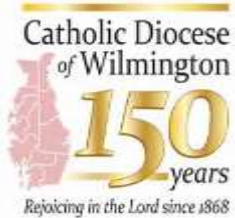
**Lent Reconciliation Service is scheduled for March 22<sup>nd</sup> at 7:00PM here at Our Lady of Fatima combined with Holy Spirit & St. Peter's.**

*Annual Lenten Penance Celebration – March 22<sup>nd</sup> at 7PM in the Church.  
Holy Thursday – Mass of the Lord’s Supper – 7PM – Church  
Good Friday – Passion of the Christ – 3PM – Church  
**Easter Vigil – 7:30PM – Church***

**Sunday Masses: 8AM, 10AM, Noon and 1PM Spanish**

**Help kick off a year to remember!**

**Diocesan 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary begins March 3<sup>rd</sup>.**



You are cordially invited to join Bishop Malooly at the Diocese of Wilmington’s Sesquicentennial Kick-off Mass on Saturday, March 3, 2018 at 12:00 p.m. at the Cathedral of Saint Peter, Sixth and West Streets in Wilmington. Gather and pray with Catholics from across Delaware and Maryland’s Eastern Shore to celebrate the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of the Diocese of Wilmington by Blessed Pope Pius IX on March 3, 1868.



Our Lady of Fatima will be having their annual Sodality Bake sale the weekend of **March 24/25 (Palm Sunday Weekend)** held in the Convent. Please mark your calendar for this once a year fundraiser for our Sodality members. Donations will be accepted for this event and more information will follow in the upcoming bulletins. Call the rectory if you can donate an item.



**Our Bi-Annual Basket Bingo will be held on April 29, 2018 in the Msgr. Dwyer Hall.** Mark your calendar as more information will be forthcoming.



"I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die." (John 11:25-26).

May they rest in eternal Peace (Jan-Feb) – Antoinette Paglia; John Albert Nelson; John Horwath; James DeCarlo; Deacon Joseph Romans, Helen Paglia

**In Remembrance:** What greater gift than the mass? If you know someone who has died, or are interested in having a mass celebrated for a loved one, please call the parish office at 302-328-3431. We have masses available during the week and weekends. The candles burning over the tabernacle or flowers on the altar can also be in remembrance of a loved one.



## New altar Servers For Our Lady of Fatima

**If you are in Grade 4–10, have** received Holy Communion and would like to serve at the Altar of God for weekend Masses; Holy Day and special Parish celebrations, please call the Liturgy Office at 322-3745 ext. 20 or Email [mlmay@olfnewcastle.com](mailto:mlmay@olfnewcastle.com) for more information. You may also call the Rectory to leave your name and contact information.

**Altar Servers are REALLY important! This is one way that you, the youth of the parish – yes, YOU can serve the Lord. Server training is provided and schedule is personalized to meet your family needs.**

*Being Altar Server is call to Prayer and Mission* - Pope Francis

E-MAIL: [prep@olfnewcastle.com](mailto:prep@olfnewcastle.com)



