

Scriptural Reflection July 22-23, 2017
 16th Sun. in Ordinary Time Wisdom 12:13, 16-19

I am not smart enough to fully describe or dissect what divides the two major political parties in our country. Oh yes, I have opinions, some of which are well-informed and solid and others of which are relatively uninformed but equally firm.



As I write this reflection, health care is the hot-button issue of the day. By the time my thoughts are published in the parish bulletin, we will know the outcome of legislation currently proposed for passage in Congress. The only thing that is indisputable, at the moment, is that Congress is a house divided.

What will it take to unite our politicians? What could they accomplish? Here's an intriguing possibility: what if the one thing that united them or brought them together was compassion? The national landscape would change. I'd hope, for the betterment of all. But you can dismiss such a thought as impractical and not at all likely. "Nice try, Father, but never the twain shall meet, much less in mercy or compassion."

But mercy, power, and justice have met and perfectly so. Where? At the very heart of God. Today's first reading from Wisdom declares God's might but also extols His perfect mercy. It says of God, "though you are master of might, you judge with clemency". (Wis. 12:19?)

Theologians through the ages have affirmed that God's power is God's Mercy. St. Thomas Aquinas writes: "It is proper to God to exercise mercy, and He manifests His omnipotence particularly in this way." Because God is infinitely good His mercy is without limit.

While politicians shout at one another, terrorists advance their message through killing and violence, and the greedy show no compassion for the poor nor concern for our planet, is there anything that can unite us and heal division? You bet. It's called Mercy! It is nothing less than God's Power at work in us.

Luke 6:36 urges us to "be merciful like the Father." Those words, in Latin, were the refrain of a beautiful chant which served, last year, during the Year of Mercy, as a reminder for us all of what God expects of us. I highly recommend listening to it on the internet, as I did while writing this reflection. The soothing and haunting words of that chant in Latin are these: "Misericordes sicut Pater" which translated mean, "Merciful like the Father". The sung response is: "in aeternum misericordia eius" meaning "His mercy is everlasting". If our readings today remind us of anything it is that! I doubt that we need any reminder of how desperately the world today needs that Mercy.

~ Fr. Victor Scocco, O.S.S.T.

USHERS TRAINING – THIS WEDNESDAY

There will be a training for all current ushers—permanent and substitutes—and for those who would like to learn more about the Usher Ministry this Wednesday, July 26th at 7:00pm in the church.

GRILLIN' PICNIC – AUGUST 12TH

Join us for our annual Parish Grillin' Picnic on Saturday, August 12th from 12-4:30pm, here at our new campus. Fun for all ages.

Volunteers are needed to assist in the big event (especially those with hidden talents...balloon animal making, DJs, musicians, etc.). If you have a talent you would like to share or if you're able to help with setting up and clean up, please let us know at the Parish Office.

YOUNG ADULT EVENTS

Please join our **Young Adult Social Ministry on July 29th for our trip to Hershey Park!** We'll carpool, as available, and leave the church parking lot at 7:45am. This event is open to the entire parish! If you'd like to join us, please email danellerfernandez@gmail.com

- August 12th – Parish Picnic 12:00-4:30pm – This will also count as our service opportunity, since we'll help set up, break down, and run activities.
- August 26th – Trip to Sky Zone Trampoline Park- Dinner will be offsite at 6pm and then we'll meet at Sky Zone at 7pm
- September 9th – Capture the Flag - 6pm

We also have **Bible Study for Young Adults**, which now meets the first, third, and fifth **Wednesday** of the month at 7:00pm. The next session will be August 2nd.

For more info on Bible Study or our social activities, please email youngadult@saintlawrencemartyr.org or go to: www.saintlawrencemartyr.org/youngadult

SIT REFLECTION

You will recall our asking you to pray for Fr. Tom Uzhunnalil, a Salesian Indian priest, and neighbor of Fr. Binoy's, who was kidnapped in early 2016 in Yemen by alleged ISIS sympathizers.

CNEWA (July 12, 2017) reports that a Yemeni foreign official has confirmed to the Indian government that Fr. Tom is indeed still alive. Indian officials are desperately trying to maintain contact with those whom have Fr. Tom, but negotiations for release are difficult as the captors have not specified a ransom of any sort.

Keep those prayers coming for Fr. Tom.

SAVE THE DATE

Save the date! On Saturday, September 23rd, we will close our 150th Anniversary celebrations with a Dinner Dance. More details to come.

Mass Intentions

Saturday, July 22nd: 16th Sunday in Ordinary Time

5:00pm + **Patricia Ann Frances Dowd** req by the Naymick family

Sunday, July 23rd: 16th Sunday in Ordinary Time

8:00am **Mass for the People**

10:00am + **Josefina Perez** req by Mr. & Mrs. Eleida Roman

12:00pm + **Ray Tansill** req by Dick & Judy Boivin

5:30pm + **Manuel Megias Marato**

req by Michael & Lola Rivera

Monday, July 24th:

9:00am* + **Donald Kenneth Rivera**

req by Michael & Lola Rivera

Tuesday, July 25th:

9:00am** **Victor Montoya** req by his grandparents

Wednesday, July 26th:

9:00am*** + **Julio Ruiz** req by the Ruiz family

Thursday, July 27th:

9:00am* + **Loretta Detollenaere** req by Dick & Judy Boivin

Friday, July 28th:

9:00am* + **Burton Allen** req by his daughter, Miriam Heil

Saturday, July 29th: 17th Sunday in Ordinary Time

5:00pm + **Barbara Dorsey Prisco** req by Jim Prisco Jr.

Sunday, July 30th: 17th Sunday in Ordinary Time

8:00am **Bolanle Edet** req by the Edet family

10:00am **Rhea Guzman for her 19th birthday**

req by the Guzman family

12:00pm **For Chidimma's graduation & welcome to Emmanuel & Eustace Onwuegbule** req by

Innocent & Philomena Onwuegbule

5:30pm + **Charles Brown** req by Patty Dieterich

*Rosary following Mass **Rosary and Novena to St. Agatha

***Rosary and Novena to St. Michael of the Saints

MASS INTENTION REQUESTS

Offering Mass for a Special Intention is a long-standing tradition in the Catholic Church. If you would like to have a Mass celebrated for someone, please contact the Parish Office via email at office@saintlawrencemartyr.org or call 410-799-1970.

Please call ahead if you want your intention on a specific date so it can be put on the calendar.

July 29 th -30 th Ministry Schedule					
Time	Servers	Lector	EM	Ushers	Greeters
Saturday 5:00pm	Matthew C Bianca H	Maggie P	Annie B Janet B Jeff F	Jeff F Steve S	John S
Sunday 8:00am	Lilly B Amanda S	Help Needed	Bridget A Liz D Kathy M	Dwayne G Ronnie M	Helen C
Sunday 10:00am	Christian C Jason S	Elnora G	Bev A Maureen M Ed M	Darryl B Aida R	Angie N Mary C
Sunday 12:00pm	Catie W Help Needed	Skip W	Maria D Debra W Help Needed	Michael L Jerry S	Help Needed
Sunday 5:30pm	Help Needed	Micayla N	Deacon Dave Lola R Jeffrey W	Steve F Drew F	Help Needed

CHURCH SUPPORT – JULY 15TH – 16TH

Category	This year	Last year
Envelopes: Regular Weekly	\$3,648.00	\$2,955.00
Loose: Regular Weekly	1,619.00	1,925.00
E-giving: Regular Weekly	1,970.50	1,865.00
TOTAL OFFERTORY	\$7,237.50	\$6,745.00
Poor Box:	\$389.00	\$155.50

NEXT WEEKEND – MISSIONARY COOPERATIVE

Next week, the second collection is for the the Missionary Cooperative Fund. Fr. Anthony Boothali from PEACE (Pastoral Evangelization And Children Education) will be here to share about his mission experience with us.

PEACE is a Catholic mission foundation. The foundation provides basic and quality education for the marginalized students in southern India. There are more than 300 million children who don't not have access to schooling because of their poverty and family background in India. PEACE is trying to encourage and provide an opportunity for the children to go to school and get a basic education. Right now, we are providing education for more than 1,200 children in our program.

Whatever financial support that we can give for the programs will be greatly appreciated. Please be generous in your contributions to the missions.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- July 23rd:** 6:30pm Life Night – Bowling
- July 25th:** 10:30am TLC – Celebration
- 6:00pm 150th Anniversary Mtg.
- 6:00pm Divine Mercy Chaplet
- 6:30pm Men's Bible Study
- 6:30pm Women's Bible Study
- July 26th:** 7:00pm Usher's Mtg
- July 27th:** 7:00pm Evangelization Mtg
- 7:00pm Rosary for Unborn (Hist. Church)
- July 29th:** 2nd Collection: Missionary Cooperative
- 7:45am Leave from St. Lawrence to head to Hershey Park
- 10:00am EMHC Training
- July 30th:** 2nd Collection: Missionary Cooperative

WE NEED YOUR HELP!

Thank you to all who have volunteered for our various ministries. Our Hospitality Ministries could use some help. Remember, these ministries help form a visitor's first and last impression of our St. Lawrence community.

Our Greeters, Coffee Ministry, Parking Lot Ministry, and an Information Desk Ministry can all use new volunteers!

Please contact the Parish Office if you are interested. Please take this opportunity to serve the Church.

MAKING ORDINARY TIME EXTRAORDINARY WITH FORMED

To Watch: *The Way of Saint James*

Across breathtaking landscapes, we experience a journey that is at once concrete, mystical, and metaphorical in a continued alternation between past and present, between the history and legends that have fashioned the destiny of the Way of St. James.

This ancient route that concludes at the shrine where St. James the Apostle is buried is the most famous Christian pilgrimage in the world. Now you can take this ancient journey through this beautifully produced film.

Go to Special Topics

To Listen *No Turning Back*

How is a die-hard agnostic transformed into a fervent apostle of Christ?

Fr. Donald Calloway, a former drug dealer, will have you on the edge of your seat as he candidly shares the amazing story of how he unexpectedly found the Catholic Faith and the priesthood by God's grace and the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary. His conversion compares to that of St. Augustine.

Go to Conversion Stories

To Access: Go to www.formed.org and click "Register", located in the lower right hand corner. Then enter both the Parish Code, which is ed1783, and your email address. You'll need to fill out some basic information and then click "Submit".

Formed will send an email for verification to your email. Go to & open your email received from "Formed" and click on the word "Verify". It will take you to the Formed site.

NEW: the FORMED app is now available for Apple products and it's FREE!

SHARE FOOD NETWORK: HOST SITE #4305

Would you like to have healthy, seasonal and nutritious food delivered to your door each month? Host Site #4305 of the SHARE Food Network, located here in Jessup, MD, does just that at an affordable cost for the disabled, sick, shut in, and senior members of our community.

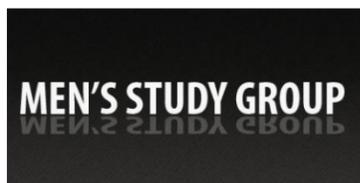
Every month, SHARE offers Value Packages for \$21 which include \$40-\$45 worth of basic and healthy groceries, and always 4 to 6 pounds of fresh fruits and vegetables, sometimes with seasonal grocery or dessert items. Other great food specials are also offered at below market prices.

Payment options include: debit/credit cards, EBT, and Cash/Money Order.

For more information or to place an order, please call Myrtle Webb, Host Site Coordinator, at 443-621-0002.

CATHOLIC MEN'S STUDY GROUP

The purpose of this group is to better understand the biblical and historical basis for Catholic doctrines. The group meets on the 1st, 2nd, and 4th Tuesdays from 6:30-8:00pm.



The topic for the summer is the Book of Revelation. All are welcome.

OFFICE VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

We're looking for adult volunteers to staff the reception desk in the office. Volunteers would answer phone calls, assist visitors, and do light office work.

We still have some afternoon and evening shifts available. Let us know your preference and availability of day and shift. Any help is greatly appreciated. Contact the Parish Office for more information.

PARKSIDE BOULEVARD

Please remember that the speed limit on Parkside Boulevard is 25 mph.

DEVOTIONAL CANDLES

The taller candles on the back row of the new candle stand are available as Memorial Candles. The Memorial Candle remains lit 24 hours a day, every day, for one year and includes a small plaque with the name of your loved one in front of your candle. Plaques will remain on display for a year for an annual fee of \$200.

If you would like to reserve a Memorial Candle, please contact the Parish Office.

GEORGE WEIGEL AT THE BASILICA ON SEPT 21ST

George Weigel was the papal biographer for Saint John Paul II. Weigel is also a Baltimore boy—and provides a unique tie to our great city and to a tremendous saint whom we all love.

He will be coming to speak about his life with Saint John Paul II on Sept. 21, 2017 at 7:00pm at the Basilica of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary (409 Cathedral Street • Baltimore, MD, 21201).

This talk is open to the public. There is no ticket needed. You are all invited to attend. After the talk there will be a book signing as well as desserts and refreshments over in Archbishop Border's hall.

George Weigel is the New York Times best-selling author of *Witness to Hope* and the preeminent biographer of Saint John Paul II. In his latest masterpiece: *Lessons in Hope: My Unexpected Life with St. John Paul II*, Weigel takes readers behind the scenes as history is made in the Vatican and the Kremlin, in Kraków and New York, and ponders the lessons he learned from a saint about the nobility of the human spirit.

NEW EMHC TRAINING – JULY 29TH

The Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion (EMHC) orientation/training for new ministers will be held on Saturday, July 29th at 10am.

New ministers who have not attended an orientation session on this ministry are encouraged to attend this session. Please contact Mrs. Lola Rivera at 443-223-1125 or lolarivera@gmail.com if you are interested in serving in this important ministry.

NEW LECTOR TRAINING – AUGUST 13TH

There will be a training for anyone interested in being a lector on Sunday, August 13th at 1:30pm in the church.

Lectors bring the living Word of God to the liturgical assembly. In and through them, God speaks to the gathered faithful. Proclamation is a special ministry which presupposes faith and also rouses faith in those who hear the Word proclaimed.

MONDAYS AT THE HISTORIC CHURCH

Morning Prayer and Morning Mass on Mondays takes place at the Historic Church. There are temporarily NO bathroom facilities available at the Historic Church.

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

Our Women's Bible Study meets every Tuesday, from 6:30–8:30pm, except for the **third** Tuesday of the month.

This Tuesday, we will be starting a new session studying the Gospel of Mark. The Study Guide is \$12.

If you are interested or would like more information, please contact Judy Kurtz and Sandy Garrick at womensbible@saintlawrencemartyr.org or call the Parish Office at 410-799-1970 ext. 50.

MUSICIANS NEEDED

Serious musicians needed for our Praise Band for the Sunday 5:30pm Mass. Bassist, guitarist, keyboardist, drummer, and singers, playing Praise and Worship music by artists such as Tomlin, Maher, Blakesley. The group rehearses Sundays at 4:30pm. Contact Dan Baker at 410-242-5741 or keytardan@aol.com for more info.

IMPROVE YOUR MARRIAGE

Just as a small mustard seed can become a large and elaborate bush, discover how a Worldwide Marriage Encounter (WWME) weekend can encourage your marriage to blossom and provide a lifetime of joy.

The next weekend is on October 27-29, 2017 in Gaithersburg, MD.

For more information and to apply online visit welovematrimony.org, or call 301-541-7007, or email at applications@welovematrimony.org

WELCOME

Through the Sacrament of Baptism, we welcomed the following children:

- Aurélien Corey Redmond, son of Corey Redmond and Karla Quintanilla, baptized on June 18th.
- Jaiden Joseph Chettiar, son of Sundaram Chettiar and Roshni Naralakattu on July 8th.
- Carter Steven Willson, son of Jeffrey Willson and Lily Huang, baptized on July 16th.

May they and their families continue to grow in God's love and grace.

DO YOU LIKE TO WORK OUTDOORS?

The **Church Grounds Crew** needs volunteers to help cut grass, at both the Historic Church and cemetery and at the new Parish Complex. For further info, please contact Michael Levesque via email michaelrlevesque@yahoo.com or call 410-262-6751.

ST. LAWRENCE TRIVIA

Last week's answer: September 23, 1866, when the historic church was dedicated, was a Sunday.

This week's question: What are you reminding yourself of when you cross yourself with holy water when you enter a church?



This Week In Youth Ministry: This Sunday, we are bowling at Greenway Bowl 8246 Telegraph Rd, Odenton, MD 21113 at 6:30 (or 6:45 if you're coming from Mass). Cost is \$4.00 a game + shoe rental. A permission form will be sent to all parents and we will also have extras at the bowling alley. Please contact AnnaMarie with any questions at annamaried.link@gmail.com

Next Sunday we will not have youth group.

Are you interested??

NCYC 2017 in Indianapolis Nov. 16-18 - cost \$580 including transportation. We need to know by August 30th if you're interested.

Also, start looking for exciting changes coming to the youth ministry program starting in the Fall. We will be debuting a new program and we are looking forward to introducing it to you! Questions? Email AnnaMarie Link - annamaried.link@gmail.com

We are always looking for adult volunteers to help with Life Teen. Please feel free to email or call me at 410-799-1970, ext 55 if you're interested in helping.

Be sure to follow us on Instagram! @SLMLifeTeen

In Him through her,
AnnaMarie Link