

Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time



**Church of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary
3411 Martin Luther King Jr. Avenue, S.E.
Washington, DC 20032**



***Rev. Gregory Shaffer,
Pastor***

Saturday Vigil Mass: 4:30 pm
Sunday Mass: 10:00 am
Daily Mass: Monday thru Saturday 12:10 pm
Eucharistic Adoration: Monday, Wednesday, Friday 11:00 - 12:00 noon
Confessions: Saturday 3:30 - 4:15 pm, Wednesday 11:00 – 12:00 noon
or anytime by appointment

Address: 3401 Martin Luther King, Jr. Avenue, S.E.
Washington, DC 20032

Office Hours: Monday, Wednesday, Friday
9:00 am to 5:00 pm
Tuesday 1:00 pm to 5:00 pm

Pastor: Father Greg Shaffer
202-561-4178 Cell 240-463-9960

Email: frgreg@assumptiondc.org

Secretary: Mrs. Cheryl Hamlin-Williams

Phone: 202-561-4178 Fax 202-561-0336

Email: info@assumptiondc.org

**Pope Francis
Outreach Center :** Food Pantry and Clothing Room

Director: Ms. Mildred Brown

Assistant Director Ms. Brenda Hare

Hours of Operation: Monday, Wednesday, Friday
9:00 am - 12:00 noon

Phone: 202-561-5941 Fax 202-561-4024

Website: www.assumptionchurchdc.org/outreach

Email outreach@assumptiondc.org



**Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time
July 30, 2017**

I've been meeting with a young man who desperately wants to experience the presence of God. He was raised as a Protestant, so he has had Christ in his life from the beginning. He converted to Catholicism in college, but has struggled with signs from the Lord. For his relatives, faith seems to come more easily and naturally (supernaturally?) than it does for him.

He and I talked months ago when he was going through a bit of a "dark night". This means that his spiritual life was in darkness, and that God seemed hidden. He was still not seeing any signs. Then, we met about a month ago, and God had revealed Himself in dramatic ways to this young man. He was so happy!

So, when we got together for dinner last Tuesday, the first thing he said was that he was fasting. I asked why, and he said it was to help overcome his doubts about God and Heaven. Our waiter was not too happy...!

Last Tuesday was a feast day in the Church: the feast of St. James the Apostle. Catholics don't fast on feast days. It's like when Jesus says, "*as long as they have the bridegroom with them they cannot fast*" (Mk 2:19). We apply this to the feast days of certain saints who had the bridegroom with them in extraordinary and major ways. So, feast days are celebrations of God's grace through particular persons.

I waited for a moment to tell this to the young man so as not to jump all over him for fasting. I figured he didn't know about feast days. But, then again, he was telling me about how he had been going to pray at a Catholic church during his lunch break each day (he really wants to experience God), so maybe he had some "church" in him. I told him about the feast day and the meaning of it, and he responded very well. The next thing he said was, "waiter, I will order after all".

We reviewed the past month, and it turns out that he had received some signs from God. So, why had he returned to doubting God and Heaven again? Because he had been reading a book each day by a "humanist" (i.e., atheist). He is an avid reader and thinker,

and he didn't even realize the effect the book was having on him. It was about the time that he started the book that his doubts began. This led to many sleepless nights, and a lack of peace. And yet, God kept showing him signs, the biggest of which happened last Monday (the night before our dinner).

We discussed what happened that day – the sign that he received - and how he slept well Monday night. He vowed to put down the atheist's book, and start reading Bishop Robert Barron or C.S. Lewis again. Smart move! Then, with the whole feast day thing – which really is evidence of God and Heaven – he walked away from our dinner totally at peace.

Do you and I long for the Kingdom of Heaven like this young man? Do we desire Christ so much that we will make chapel visits or fast in order to see or hear Him? These questions apply to today's Gospel parables of the buried treasure and the pearl of great price.

Notice the desire of the person who finds the buried treasure and the merchant who finds the pearl: each of them "sells all that he has". These two images represent the Kingdom of God, and specifically Jesus Christ. When we find Christ and His Kingdom, we desire Him above all things. We are so filled with joy – like the person and the merchant – that we will sell all that we have for Him.

My friend was like the merchant "searching for fine pearls". He has been searching for Christ. He gave up his lunch break and some food in order to find Him and the treasure of heaven.

What are we willing to sell in order to receive the riches of the Kingdom? Do we have the joy of people who have found the pearl of great price which is Christ?

May you know the peace of Christ,
Fr Greg

Healing Prayers for: Frederick McNeil, Carolyn Poston, Mildred Brown, George Thomas, James Anthony Murphy, Queen Bundy, Earnest Ingram, Jr. John Howard, Iris Best, Helena Haley, Dorothy Hollis, Jean Sultzer, Gisele Best, Lezeal Rorie, Corinne Bachiller, Lillian Taylor, Calvin Best, Tracy Stachitis, Veronica Brown, Deacon McBurnett Smith, Marsha Carlson-Meyers, Dr. Dee Jones Adams, Barry Robella, Father Dan Vitz, Eleonora Best, Jane Rhyne, Faye Lyon, Abby Fargo, Mildred Selmar, Heather Wooten-Rollins, Brenda Newman, Malek Elloit, Kennedy Wood, Courtney Barlow, Christine Jones, Benjamin Davis, Ronald Horton, Madison McKenzie, Jamil McKenzie, Samuel James Guadalupe, Shawntrice Moore, Bridget Barlow, Veronica Harris, Teresa Wilkinson, Sherri Ewing, Pauline Haggins, Dorothy Sylvester, Tiffany Jacobs, Darlene Jones, Paul Higgins, Audrey Saunders, Pauline Johnson, June Murphy **Our Homebound Parishioners:** Mary Cooke, Sybil Depeazer, Louvenia Gray, Fr. Charles Green, Pauline Johnson, Yvonne Samuel, Audrey Saunders, Joan Shields, Elizabeth Smith, Viola Walker

Prayer of the Day for Sunday, July 30th

Blessing at Bedtime

Heavenly Father,

Bless me and keep me in Your love.

Grant me a good rest tonight,

And send Your angels to protect me.

In the Name of the Father,

And the + Son, And of the Holy Spirit Amen.



READINGS FOR THEWEEK

Monday: Ex 32:15-24, 30-34 Mt 13:31-35

Tuesday: Ex 33:7-11; 34:5b-9, 28 Mt 13:36-43

Wednesday: Ex 34:29-35 Mt 13:44-46

Thursday: Ex 40:16-21, 34-38 Mt 13:47-53

Friday: Lv 23:1, 4-11, 15-16, 27, 34b-37
Mt 13:54-58

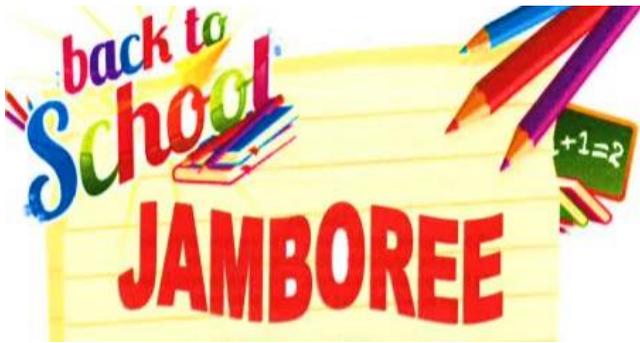
Saturday: Lv 25:1, 8-17 Mt 14:1-12

Next Sunday: Dn 7:9-10, 13-14 2 Pt 1:16-19 Mt 17:1-9



Announcements

We will have a one-time special collection on the weekend of August 12-13 for the Building Funds this collection is earmarked to help with the restoration of the Stations of the Cross. Thank you in advance.



The Back 2 School is back!!!

Assumption's Back-2-School Jamboree will be held on Saturday, August 19, 2017 from 1:00 ~ 3:00 PM in the Church Hall. Students must be present and the first 100 students will receive backpacks. Backpacks will not be distributed to Pre-K and Kindergarten students. Donations are accepted

and volunteers are welcome. Student volunteers will receive Community Service hours for their participation. For more information please call Edith Jones at 240-988-2839.

"WHERE THERE IS LIGHT, THERE IS HOPE!"

The East of the River Revival will start on Saturday, September 30, 2017 from 10 am to 3:45 pm with a Youth Rally for the Youth and will continue Monday through Wednesday, October 2 - 4, 2017, beginning at 7:00 pm. Our revivalist is Father Roy Lee, an electrifying, thought provoking and distinguished minister of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. His love for Jesus is contagious. He is sought after as a lecturer, educator, counselor, retreat-master, and homilist. He currently ministers in the Archdiocese of Atlanta.





Puzzle

Find and circle these words from today's Gospel:

~~KINGDOM~~
HEAVEN
TREASURE

HIDDEN
FIELD
FOUND

PEARLS
SOLD
BOUGHT

T	N	F	H	D	E	O	K	M	I	O
H	B	O	U	G	H	T	E	F	A	V
E	I	U	S	E	L	R	A	I	K	T
K	R	N	A	H	S	E	U	E	D	R
I	E	D	I	P	E	A	R	L	S	N
N	A	H	F	N	I	S	E	D	O	W
G	M	D	A	T	O	U	H	N	L	E
D	I	N	G	E	A	R	S	I	D	N
O	J	H	I	D	D	E	N	O	W	Y
M	E	D	N	S	T	O	A	L	N	D
A	H	L	H	E	A	V	E	N	T	A

**NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS AROUND THE
ARCHDIOCESE OF WASHINGTON**



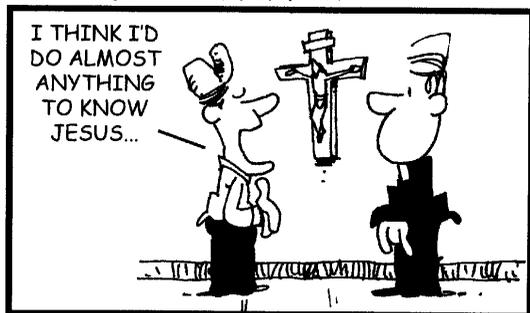
Come to the Unbound Conference

Do you feel stuck, unable to forgive, heal or move forward? Come to the Unbound Conference and receive the healing and freedom that Jesus longs for you. Unbound is an internationally renowned ministry that has touched many lives. It is used by Baltimore, Arlington and Washington Dioceses. We are fortunate to have Neal and Janet Lozano, founders of Unbound Ministries, presenting a sound and practical way for Christians to experience a greater freedom from the influence of sin & evil in their lives and to enjoy a greater fullness of life won for us by Christ's death and resurrection. For information go to www.UnboundADW.org or call 301-799-5519. August 11-12th 20501 Goshen Road Gaithersburg, MD 20879.

Attention Financial Professionals!

Help motivated people to break the cycle of poverty. Join Catholic Charities “Financial Stability Network” of financial professionals who will offer pro bono financial education, financial coaching, and tax return preparation services for low-income families and individuals in the Archdiocese of Washington. If you have any type of financial experience, consider joining the new network. For more information and to apply, please contact Deacon Jim Shanahan jim.shanahan@cc-dc.org.

17TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



July 30, 2017