

## First Sunday of Lent – February 18, 2018

### Resist Temptation

**Readings: Gn 9:8–15; Ps 25:4–9; 1 Pt 3:18–22; Mk 1:12–15**

Lent bids us to return to the innocence of baptism. As Noah and his family were saved through the waters of the deluge, we were saved through the waters of baptism, Peter reminds us in today's Epistle. And God's covenant with Noah in today's First Reading marked the start of a new world. But it also prefigured a new and greater covenant between God and His creation (see Hosea 2:20; Isaiah 11:1–9). We see that new covenant and that new creation begin in today's Gospel. Jesus is portrayed as the new Adam—the beloved son of God (see Mark 1:11; Luke 3:38), living in harmony with the wild beasts (see Genesis 2:19–20), being served by angels (see Ezekiel 28:12–14). Like Adam, He too is tempted by the devil. But while Adam fell, giving reign to sin and death (see Romans 5:12–14, 17–20), Jesus is victorious. This is the good news, the "gospel of God" that He proclaims. Through His death, resurrection, and enthronement at the right hand of the Father, the world is once again made God's kingdom. In the waters of baptism, each of us entered the kingdom of His beloved Son (see Colossians 1:13–14). We were made children of God, new creations (see 2 Corinthians 5:7; Galatians 4:3–7). But like Jesus, and Israel before Him, we have passed through the baptismal waters only to be driven into the wilderness—a world filled with afflictions and tests of our faithfulness (see 1 Corinthians 10:1–4, 9:13; Deuteronomy 8:2,16). We are led on this journey by Jesus. He is the Savior—the way and the truth we sing of in today's Psalm (see John 14:6). He feeds us with the bread of angels (see Psalm 78:25; Wisdom 16:20), and cleanses our consciences in the sacrament of reconciliation. As we begin this holy season, let us renew our baptismal vows—to repent and believe the gospel.

Father Blake Evans, Pastor



### ATTENDANCE REPORT

2/11/18

**Attendance: 412 souls**  
**Ash Wednesday: 413 souls**  
**Offerings & Tithes: \$5,847**  
**Spanish Mass: \$492**  
**Utility fund: \$35**

### Rest in Peace



Mrs. Pearl Jefferson, 101. Long time and faithful parishioner, died on Friday, February 16. Funeral will be at Nativity on Friday, February 23<sup>rd</sup>.

"Eternal Rest Grant Unto her Oh Lord"



### Monday, February 19<sup>th</sup>.

The rectory offices will be closed. There will be one Mass on this day at 10:00 am.

There will be **NO** Bible Study class on Monday February 19.



**Stations of the Cross** – Every Friday after the daily mass

**Lenten Family Retreat Day - Feb 18 after 10 am Mass in Lounge**

The Council of Catholic Women is hosting a 9 a.m. Mass on Saturday, Feb. 24th followed by the presentation: "*Archbishop's Pastoral Letter, Challenge of Racism Today*" To register for access to building, Call 301-933-3546 or archdioceseCCW@gmail.com. More information: See insert in this bulletin.



## Mass Intentions

**February 17 – February 24, 2018**

Sat. 2/17	8: 00a	+Paz Pejoro
	4:30p	+Juan Daughtry
Sun. 2/18	8:00am	Catholic Daughters
	10:00a	Catechumens, First Communion Students and RCIA Candidates,
	1:00p	People of the Parish
Mon. 2/19	10:00 am	USA for peace and unity
Tue. 2/20	Noon	+Ryan Heath
Wed. 2/21	Noon	+Agnieska Wnek
Thu. 2/22	Noon	+Ryan Heath
Fri. 2/23	11:00 am	+Pearl Jefferson (Funeral)
Sat. 2/24	8:00a	Rohini Perera
	4:30p	Sick homebound parishioners

### Black History Month



Venerable Pierre Toussaint (27 June 1766 – June 30, 1853) was a former slave from the French colony of Saint-Domingue (now the Dominican Republic). Brought to New York City by his owners in 1787 there he eventually gained his freedom and became a noted philanthropist to the poor. Freed in 1807 after the death of his mistress, Pierre took the surname of "Toussaint" in honor of the hero of the Haitian Revolution which established that nation. After his marriage in 1811 to Juliette Noel, Toussaint and his wife performed many charitable works. Among those works included opening their home as an orphanage, employment bureau, and a refuge for travelers. He contributed funds and helped raise money to build Saint Patrick's Cathedral on Mulberry Street. He was considered "one of the leading black New Yorkers of his day."<sup>[1]</sup> His memoir was published in 1854. Due to his devout life, he has been investigating his life for canonization; in 1996 he was declared "Venerable" by Pope John Paul II, the second step in the process. Toussaint is the first layperson to be buried in the crypt below the main altar of Saint Patrick's Cathedral on 5th Avenue, normally reserved only for bishops of the Archdiocese. Mr. Toussaint pray for us!

**Dollars and Diapers Outreach Ministry 2018.** Diapers may be dropped off at the front vestibule of the church in the labeled collection containers. Donation envelopes are in a basket located on the altar rail labeled DOLLARS AND DIAPERS. **Please place all monetary donations in the envelopes into the Sunday collection basket while the campaign is ongoing.**



**Vocations Tree:** Vocations do not fall from heaven. Like anything in God's plan, they being small like a seed, need nurturing, the light of God, care from others, inspiration, trimming, and care. Nativity parish, symbolized by a new year-round Christmas Tree will continue to regularly pray for vocations to Priesthood and Religious Life from our parish and help those in our Archdiocese



## KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

**Keane Council #353**

**Ultrasound Initiative.** Support to save unborn babies lives. The Knights are raising funds to purchase a \$29,750 ultrasound machine to donate to the Capitol Hill Pregnancy Center in DC. Please help us with a donation. If by check, please make the check out to Knights of Columbus Charities, if by cash, please put the donation in an envelope clearly marked "Knights of Columbus Charities." If you would prefer to pay by credit card, to access our website please use this link <http://charities.dcknights.org/ultrasound/> All donations are tax deductible. For additional information, please contact Amado Alvarez [240-381-9276](tel:240-381-9276) or at [acajr2@gmail.com](mailto:acajr2@gmail.com)

**Lenten Fish Fry.** Starting on February 16<sup>th</sup> at 6 pm in the Lounge. This event will occur every Friday during Lent except Good Friday. Dinners are \$10, sandwiches \$5. Proceeds provide grants, scholarships, and awards for parish activities. More information call Bob Newman 301.892.2713 or Peter Gervais 202.494.7347

**Social Sunday** - Please join us in the Lounge on Sunday, February 25<sup>th</sup>, after the 10 am masses, for breakfast and fellowship. There will be pancakes, eggs, breakfast meat, donuts, juice, and coffee. This is a wonderful time for parishioners to have a relaxing breakfast and get to know each other better. Social Sunday is free to all parishioners.