

Pastor's Corner...

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

24 Hours of Mercy: Pope Francis has encouraged cathedrals and churches around the world to make the Sacrament of Confession available on March 4th and 5th. This initiative forms part of the Year of Mercy and is meant to emphasize the importance of the Sacrament of Mercy (Confession) in this Year of Mercy. As a way of observing the Holy Father's request (while, admittedly, leaving time for sleeping and eating and my other pastoral duties) I will be hear Confessions in several blocks of time March 4th-5th. I will be available after the 8:30 a.m. Mass until all confessions are heard on Friday, March 4th. I will hear confessions from 6:00-7:00 p.m. March 4th and will resume confessions after the 7:00 p.m. Stations of the Cross, until all are heard. And, I will hear Confessions after our monthly First Saturday, 8:15 a.m. Mass on March 5th, until all are heard. And, of course, I will hear Confessions on Saturday, March 5th, from 4:00-4:30 p.m.

Funeral Mass of Justice Antonin Scalia: Last Saturday the funeral Mass of Justice Antonin Scalia was offered in the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, D.C. The funeral was broadcast nationally on multiple television stations. As has been widely reported, Justice Scalia was a faithful, practicing Catholic who sought to live his Catholic faith. And, as his son so eloquently stated, Justice Scalia was a sinner in need of God's mercy. His funeral became a significant moment of grace for our nation. I was particularly struck by the homily by Fr. Paul Scalia, Justice Scalia's son. I have included a text of the funeral homily in the bulletin. I encourage you to take some time to read the homily and prayerfully consider its implications.

The importance of the Supreme Court in a Presidential Election Year: Another Presidential election year is upon us and the news is saturated with daily updates on the election. As a general rule, the Catholic Church in America does not endorse candidates or parties. And, on the whole, I think this is a wise position. However, the Church does have a sacred duty to assist all Christ's faithful in the formation of their conscience. And, a properly formed Catholic conscience should bring a uniquely Catholic perspective to the consideration of who to vote for and what party, if any, to be affiliated with. As a priest and pastor I consider it my duty to assist the formation of conscience as it relates to all aspects of life, including voting. This call to form conscience applies to the solemn duty that we have in this country to participate in elections.

I am particularly aware of the power of the Supreme Court and the importance of having justices who interpret the law, and don't create law. Because of judicial overreach and tragically flawed judicial reasoning, we have had over 50 million legal abortions in our country since 1973, marriage has been legally redefined, and our religious liberties are threatened. Given the tragic consequences of *Roe v. Wade*, there can be no doubt about the importance of the Supreme Court in any presidential and senate race. The passing of Justice Scalia may in fact be a providential moment to bring to light the truth that the next president will have the power to change the balance on the court, with implications for a generation to come. Will Catholic Schools and institutions be able to hire and fire employees according to our values? Will education about the homosexual lifestyle be compulsory for all children in our nation? Will God and faith continue to be pushed out of the public square? Will individual Catholics have protection in the law to not violate their conscience when carrying out their work? Will we be required to fund the killing of unborn children through our tax dollars? Will parents have authority over what their children are or are not taught? Will employers be required to fund health benefits that are considered immoral? All of these and more are very real scenarios that will likely continue to pass through the Supreme Court. The Supreme Court is especially important in protecting the religious liberty that is at the heart of the founding of our nation.

Please prayerfully consider the kind of Supreme Court Justices a given candidate for President will nominate when deciding who you will vote for in this current election cycle. And, please prayerfully consider the kind of Supreme Court Justice a given candidate for the Senate will approve. Finally, please pray for our nation during this election year!

Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship: The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops approved the document "Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship" in November, 2015. (The text of this document can be easily found through a web search and is located in the USCCB website). This statement is issued every four years and prior to a presidential election year. I encourage you to read this document as you work toward the important duty of forming your conscience as it relates to public life and bringing a formed conscience into the voting booth.

An invitation to all Men of the Parish: All Men of the parish are invited to attend our regularly scheduled 6:15 p.m. Tuesday evening Mass on March 8th and a 7:00 p.m. meeting afterwards in Shepherd Hall. This open meeting will be a follow up to the Men's Conference and an opportunity for us as men to consider how we can bring what we have heard in the Men's Conference back to our families, our parish, and our community. We have a large number of men attending the Men's Conference and I am grateful for all of them who were able and willing to dedicate a day of their lives to their growth in faith, hope, and love as Catholic men.

Stations of the Cross: A reminder that we have Stations of the Cross every Friday of Lent at 7:00 p.m. in the church. Our attendance has been rather poor thus far this year. I have made a slight change to our usual routine. We will no longer be including Benediction at the end of the Stations of the Cross. I would imagine most of us don't want to spend our Friday night in Church, doing the stations of the Cross. That, however, is the point. The Friday Stations are a great opportunity to give the Lord a Friday night where, instead of doing our own thing, we prayerfully remember how he carried his Cross for us. So, if you don't want to come to Friday Stations, I encourage you to come as a great offering of love and gratitude. The Stations are a great family activity as well. It is powerful for a family to give Jesus their Friday night.

In Christ,
Fr. Wilson



Liturgical Ministers Schedule
Week of February 28th

Daily Mass Schedule

- 6:15 p.m. Tuesday, March 1st** – Judy Healy (L), Caroline Starr, Yvonne King (EM), School Servers
- 8:30 a.m. Wednesday, March 2nd** – Kathy Wilson (L), Mark Jewett, Kenna Hauser, (Servers)
- 8:15 a.m. Thursday, March 3rd** – Yvonne King (L), Bailee Fleming, Matthew Smith (Servers)
- 8:30 a.m. Friday, March 4th** – Assigned (L), Maria Geiger, Emily Grabo, Caden Wells, Anthony Ghiloni (Servers)
- Sunday Vigil Mass, Saturday, March 5th** 5:00 p.m.
Theresa Geiger Maria Geiger Gia Mullins
Alexandra Courson
- Sunday, March 6th** 8:00 a.m.
J.J. Snider Michael Snider Rudy Snider
Sarah Snider
- Holy Name Society (x4) 10:30 a.m.



Funeral Homily given by Fr. Paul Scalia at the funeral Mass of his father, Justice Antonin Scalia

[Introductory comments omitted]

We are gathered here because of one man. A man known personally to many of us, known only by reputation to even more. A man loved by many, scorned by others. A man known for great controversy, and for great compassion. That man, of course, is Jesus of Nazareth.

It is He whom we proclaim. Jesus Christ, son of the father, born of the Virgin Mary, crucified, buried, risen, seated at the right hand of the Father. It is because of him, because of his life, death and resurrection that we do not mourn as those who have no hope, but in confidence we commend Antonin Scalia to the mercy of God.

Scripture says Jesus Christ is the same yesterday today and forever. And that sets a good course for our thoughts and our prayers here today. In effect, we look in three directions. To yesterday, in thanksgiving. To today, in petition. And into eternity, with hope.

We look to Jesus Christ yesterday, that is, to the past, in thanksgiving for the blessings God bestowed upon Dad. In the past week, many have recounted what Dad did for them. But here today, we recount what God did for Dad, how he blessed him.

We give thanks first of all for the atoning death and life-giving resurrection of Jesus Christ. Our Lord died and rose not only for all of us, but also for each of us. And at this time we look to that yesterday of his death and resurrection, and we give thanks that he died and rose for Dad.

Further, we give thanks that Jesus brought him to new life in baptism, nourished him with the Eucharist, and healed him in the confessional.

We give thanks that Jesus bestowed upon him 55 years of marriage to the woman he loved, a woman who could match him at every step, and even hold him accountable.

God blessed Dad with a deep Catholic faith: The conviction that Christ's presence and power continue in the world today through His body, the Church. He loved the clarity and coherence of the church's teachings. He treasured the church's ceremonies, especially the beauty of her ancient worship. He trusted the power of her sacraments as the means of salvation as Christ working within him for his salvation.

Although one time, one Saturday afternoon, he did scold me for having heard confessions that afternoon, that same day. And I hope that it's some source of consolation, if there are any lawyers present, that the Roman collar was not a shield against his criticism.

The issue that evening was not that I had been hearing confessions, but that he had found himself in my confessional line, and he quickly departed it. As he put it later, "Like heck if I'm confessing to you!"

The feeling was mutual.

God blessed Dad, as is well known, with a love for his country. He knew well what a close-run thing the founding of our nation was. And he saw in that founding, as did the founders themselves, a blessing, a blessing quickly lost when faith is banned from the public square, or when we refuse to bring it there. So he understood that there is no conflict between loving God and loving one's country, between one's faith and one's public service. Dad understood that the deeper he went in his Catholic faith, the better a citizen and public servant he became. God blessed him with the desire to be the country's good servant *because* he was God's first.

We Scalias, however, give thanks for a particular blessing God bestowed. God blessed Dad with a love for his family. We have been thrilled to read and hear the many words of praise and admiration for him, for his intellect, his writings, his speeches, his influence and so on.

But more important to us — and to him — is that he was Dad. He was the father that God gave us for the great adventure of family life. Sure he forgot our names at times, or mixed them up, but there *are* nine of us.

He loved us, and sought to show that love. And sought to share the blessing of the faith he treasured. And he gave us one another, to have each other for support. That's the greatest wealth parents can bestow, and right now we are particularly grateful for it.

So we look to the past, to Jesus Christ yesterday. We call to mind all of these blessings, and we give our Lord the honor and glory for them, for they are His work. We look to Jesus today, in petition, to the present moment, here and now, as we mourn the one we love and admire, the one whose absence pains us. Today we pray for him. We pray for the repose of his soul. We thank God for his goodness to Dad as is right and just. But we also know that although dad believed, he did so imperfectly, like the rest of us. He tried to love God and neighbor, but like the rest of us did so imperfectly.

He was a practicing Catholic, "practicing" in the sense that he hadn't perfected it yet. Or rather, Christ was not yet perfected in him. And only those in whom Christ is brought to perfection can enter heaven. We are here, then, to lend our prayers to that perfecting, to that final work of God's grace, in freeing Dad from every encumbrance of sin.

But don't take my word for it. Dad himself, not surprisingly, had something to say on the matter. Writing years ago to a Presbyterian minister whose funeral service he admired, he summarized quite nicely the pitfalls of funerals and why he didn't like eulogies.

He wrote: "Even when the deceased was an admirable person, indeed *especially* when the deceased was an admirable person, praise for his virtues can cause us to forget that we are praying for and giving thanks for God's inexplicable mercy to a sinner."

Now he would not have exempted himself from that. We are here then, as he would want, to pray for God's inexplicable mercy to a sinner. To this sinner, Antonin Scalia. Let us not show him a false love and allow our admiration to deprive him of our prayers. We continue to show affection for him and do good for him by praying for him: That all stain of sin be washed away, that all wounds be healed, that he be purified of all that is not Christ. That he rest in peace.

Finally we look to Jesus forever, into eternity. Or better, we consider our own place in eternity and whether it will be with the Lord. Even as we pray for Dad to enter swiftly into eternal glory, we should be mindful of ourselves. Every funeral reminds us of just how thin the veil is between this world and the next, between time and eternity, between the opportunity for conversion and the moment of judgment.

So we cannot depart here unchanged. It makes no sense to celebrate God's goodness and mercy to Dad if we are not attentive and responsive to those realities in our own lives. We must allow this encounter with eternity to change us, to turn us from sin and towards the Lord.

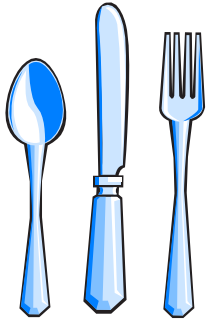
The English Dominican, Father Bede Jarrett, put it beautifully when he prayed, "O strong son of God, while you prepare a place for us, prepare us also for that happy place, that we may be with you and with those we love for all eternity."

Jesus Christ is the same, yesterday, today and forever,.

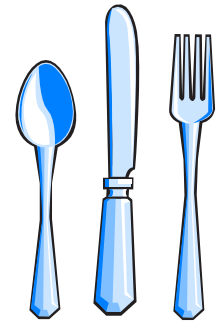
My dear friends, this is also the structure of the Mass, the greatest prayer we can offer for Dad, because it's not our prayer, but the Lord's. The Mass looks to Jesus yesterday. It reaches into the past — reaches to the Last Supper, to the crucifixion, to the resurrection — and it makes those mysteries and their power present here on this altar.

Jesus himself becomes present here today under the form of bread and wine so that we can unite all our prayers of thanksgiving, sorrow and petition with Christ himself as an offering to the father. And all of this with a view to eternity, stretching towards heaven, where we hope one day to enjoy that perfect union with God himself and to see Dad again and, with him, rejoice in the communion of saints.

Rev. Paul Scalia is a Roman Catholic priest in the Diocese of Arlington, Virginia and the son of the late Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia.



Blessed Sacrament 2016 Lenten Dinners



Wednesdays

February 17th through March 16th

4:30 to 7pm

Blessed Sacrament Shepherd Hall/Cafeteria

394 East Main St. Newark

**“Fish Fry Guy” names us as new favorite in Diocese -
6 Star Rating 2015!**

DINNER MENU SCHEDULE

Wednesdays

March 2nd - Pasta Buffet

March 9th - Panini Sandwich & Soup

March 16th - Fish Fry



COST

\$9 - Adults

\$26 - Family Rate

\$8.00 - Kids (ages 4-12) and Seniors (age 65 plus)

FREE - Kids 3 & under

50/50 DRAWING EVERY EVENING

These Events are Sponsored by The Blessed Sacrament Holy Name Society
Supporting Blessed Sacrament School Education Fund



This Week

HNS Coffee & Donuts after Masses – Cafe

Sunday, February 28

- 7:30 a.m. Rosary
8:00 a.m. Mass
9:00 a.m. RCIA – Library
9:15 a.m. CCD Classes
10:30 a.m. Mass

Monday, February 29

- 12:00 p.m. Adoration until 8:00 p.m. in the Church
7:00 p.m. Holy Name Meeting – Library

Tuesday, March 1

- 12:00 p.m. Adoration until 6:00 p.m. in the Church
5:30 p.m. Reconciliation until 6:00 p.m.
6:15 p.m. Mass
6:30 p.m. NCJrHAA Library
7:00 p.m. Choir Practice

Wednesday, March 2

- 8:15 a.m. Mass
9:00 a.m. Adoration until midnight in the Church
9:45 a.m. BSS Lenten Confessions – Church
4:30 p.m. HNS Lenten Meal till 7:00 p.m. – Cafe

Thursday, March 3

- 8:15 a.m. Mass
1:55 p.m. BSS Virtue of the Month & Crusaders
6:00 p.m. Alpha Team Meeting Library
6:30 p.m. ALPHA – Cafe

Friday, March 4 – World Day of Prayer

- 8:30 a.m. Mass, Reconciliation after Mass
6:00 p.m. Reconciliation
7:00 p.m. Stations & Benediction

Saturday, March 5

- 6:30 a.m. "That Man is You!" Cafe
8:15 a.m. 1st Saturday Latin Mass, Reconciliation after Mass
9:00 a.m. Drama Annex
4:00 p.m. Reconciliation
5:00 p.m. Mass
Centennial Building Collection

Sunday, March 6

- 7:30 a.m. Rosary
8:00 a.m. Mass
9:00 a.m. CCD Reconciliation Church
9:00 a.m. RCIA – Library
9:15 a.m. CCD Classes
10:30 a.m. Mass w/HNS

Join the Respect Life members for their meeting, Wednesday March 9th at 7:00 p.m. in the School Library. They will be planning our upcoming baby shower to conclude our spiritual adoption! All are invited and encouraged to join the team! Any questions? Contact Melissa Stack at 614-893-5499 or melissaraestack@yahoo.com.

Spiritual Adoption – Month 6 "I'm sitting up straight now!"

The baby's oil and sweat glands are functioning; these help regulate body temperature. A white filmy layer covers the baby and protects her delicate skin from the surrounding amniotic fluid and from scratches as she twists and turns. This waxy substance will be quickly absorbed into her skin soon after she is born. She can now respond to sound. Her lungs are fairly well developed and she would stand a good chance of survival if born at this time.

Lord Jesus Christ, You took our human nature upon Yourself. You shared our life and death, our childhood and adulthood.

You also shared our time in the womb. While still God, while worshiped and adored by the angels, while Almighty and filling every part of the universe, You dwelt for nine months in the womb of Mary. You were our Redeemer in the womb, our God who was a preborn child.

Lord Jesus, we ask You to bless and protect the children who today are in their mothers' womb. Save them from the danger of abortion. Give their mothers the grace to sacrifice themselves, in body and soul, for their children. Help all people to recognize in the preborn child a brother, a sister, saved by You, our Redeemer in the womb.

Local Events of Interest

Lenten Penance Services

- St. Edward the Confessor, Granville – Tuesday, March 8th, 7:00 p.m.
Our Lady of Mt. Carmel – Buckeye Lake – Sunday, March 13th, 4:00 p.m.
St. Francis deSales – Newark – Monday, March 14th, 7:00 p.m.

Around the Diocese

Bethesda Post Abortion Healing Ministry

Are there times of the year, sounds, images, and memories from a past abortion that do not seem to go away? Call Bethesda Healing Ministry to speak to someone who has been there and can help. Bethesda Healing Ministry confidential phone lines are 614-309-2651 or 614-309-0157 or visit bethesdahealing.org.

Join Catholic Conversations on Sunday, March 13th, from 6:00-8:00 p.m. at Pinnacle Golf Club (1500 Pinnacle Club Drive, Grove City) as we welcome our Lenten speaker, Rachel Muha, from Run the Race Club and the Brian Muha Foundation. Rachel will speak on the topic of Forgiveness. Rachel decided to transform grief into love and started a charitable organization serving inner-city children. Rachel is honored with many awards locally and nationally for her amazing work. Most recently she was awarded the Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis Award as an "Unsung Hero". This event is free; you just pay for any food and drink. To register, visit EventBrite and search for Catholic Conversations. For information, contact Nancy Whetstone at nancywhetstone@gmail.com or Julie Naporano at julienaporano1@gmail.com.

Cocktails and Conversations – Join The Catholic Foundation's Young Professionals Group for the 4th Cocktails and Conversations event on Thursday, March 10th, from 7:00-9:00 p.m. There will be a panel of some of the top subject matter experts in Columbus who will share the basics of creating a financial and estate plan in your 20's and 30's. We will also have a tax expert from GBQ Consulting. Food, drinks, and plenty of opportunity to network and meet with our speakers. Cost is \$5.00 (covers cost of food, drinks, and our speakers). See you there!

Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship is the U.S. Bishops' teaching document on the political responsibility of Catholics. This statement guides Catholics in the exercise of their rights and duties as participants in our democracy. All are urged to use this statement to help form their consciences; to teach those entrusted to their care; to contribute to civil and respectful public dialogue; and to shape political choices in the coming election in light of Catholic teaching. To read the statement and for parish and school resources, visit http://www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/faithful-citizenship. Additional resources are available through the Catholic Conference of Ohio, www.ohiocathconf.org. Pontifical College Josephinum Lecture Series continues Thursday, March 10th, with a presentation by Dr. Robert P. George, McCormick Professor of Jurisprudence and Director of the James Madison Program, who will present "Religious Liberty and the Human Good" at 7:00 p.m. in the Jessing Center (7625 N. High Street, Columbus). This event is free of charge and open to the public; reservations not required. For information, call the Academic Dean's office at 614-985-2274.

Respect Life Conference: The diocesan Respect Life Conference is Saturday, March 5th, from 10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. at St. Joseph Church, 670 W. Main Street, Plain City with the theme "Being Pro-Life in the Year of Mercy." Keynote speaker is Fr. Kevin Lutz. Other speakers will cover the spectrum of care and concern promoting the dignity of human life. Registration is \$20.00 includes lunch. To register, send a check payable to the Office for Social Concerns, 197 E. Gay Street, Columbus, Ohio 43215. For details, call 614-241-2540 or socmailbox@coltsdioc.org.

Until Death Do Us Part – Your marriage will be more ready for the long haul after taking a Worldwide Marriage Encounter weekend! The next weekend is April 22nd-24th, in Central Ohio. For information or to register, contact Paul and Marilou Clouse at 614-834-6880 or visit www.wmecolumbus.org.