

Fifth Sunday of Easter

May 14, 2017

From the Pastor

Dear parishioners,

This weekend our parish participates in a national collection for the Trinity Dome to complete the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, DC, before its 100th anniversary. Known as “America’s Catholic Church” built by and for the faithful of our great nation in honor of our Blessed Mother, the patroness of the United States. If you would like to donate, use an envelope in the pew and put it in the 2nd collection. For more information, please visit: www.trinitydome.org.

Recently a number of children have asked me why priests wear black. I thought I would share the article by Philip Kosloski in this bulletin.

This weekend we wish a very Happy Mother’s Day to all mothers and we congratulate our 2nd graders that received their First Communion on May 13th.

God bless, Fr. Dan

“Walk in the Park” 5k Fun Run/Walk

Join us May 20th for this event to benefit our parish’s Newtowne Manor House Preservation Fund on Saturday, May 20th open to all ages/abilities. Course from St. Francis Xavier Church and follows the road into Newtowne Neck State Park. Registration starts at 8 a.m. and run/walk starts at 9 a.m. The registration fee will help preserve this landmark of our history. Kids 12 and under are free. Info. on registration is available in the vestibule and on our website: www.stfrancisxavierchurch.org Also, if you are interested in helping as a volunteer or sponsor, please contact Chris Senese at 301-475-9361.

Why do priests wear black?

By Philip Kosloski, Aleteia, May 5, 2017

The answer comes from its spiritual symbolism. In the early centuries of the Church, priests did not wear anything distinctive for their everyday attire. They wore the typical clothing of the period and would only look different when they put on priestly vestments for celebrating Mass. Over time the fashion trends shifted and instead of moving along with the rest of the world, the clergy retained the former way of dressing. It was during the 12th and 13th centuries that priests adopted the Roman cassock as the piece of ordinary clothing that distinguished them from the laity. Soon after this decision the Church made further regulations that required priests to wear the distinctive garb. At first the cassock only consisted of a robe-like garment tied at the waist with a sash and did not feature a white collar as we are familiar with today. The color of the cassock did not receive regulation until much later and likely rose from the easy availability of black dye. Historically black was the cheapest dye to use and so was fitting for the simple parish priest. Other clergy members wore different colors to distinguish their rank and around the time of Pope Pius V, the pope began to wear a white garment similar to the pope’s white cassock today. The black cassock is still a garment worn by many priests, though most bishops’ conferences around the world have permitted the use of a black shirt instead. Symbolically black is associated with simplicity and humility and reminds priests of their need to imitate those virtues. Black is also a color that represents death and mourning and symbolizes how a priest is to die to oneself and decrease so that God may increase in his life. He is called to take up the cross of Our Lord daily, dying to sin so that he may rise in the life of grace. While it is true that parish priests are required to wear the color black, in hotter locations, dispensations allow priests to wear a more tolerable white. Nevertheless, the distinctive color of the priest’s clothing sets him apart from the rest of society. It reminds us of his mission to serve and signals him out in a crowd of people. The presence of a priest is supposed to point our hearts to heavenly things and brings the person of Christ to each one of us. The color simply highlights this reality and should provide a kind of “mini-homily” every time we see a priest.

SFX Knights of Columbus Events

“Welcome Spring” Breakfast: There will be a Breakfast on May 21st, 8:30 a.m. to 12:45 p.m. in the Parish Hall. Free will donation to assist the Knights Charity Help. Come & enjoy. New and all parishioners are welcome. Menu includes eggs, pancakes, sausage, bacon, juice and coffee. Take-outs available.

Baby Bottles: Grab a baby bottle after Mass, take home, fill with loose change/donations & bring back Father’s Day weekend. The funds help CareNet Pregnancy Center. Thank you!



Helping Hands Ministry

We are seeking to form a Helping Hands Ministry consisting of volunteers that are willing to help parishioners and others in need. This might be driving an elderly person to a doctor’s appointment or store, making a meal for someone that is sick or has had a death in their family, raking leaves or cutting someone’s grass that may be recovering from an injury, etc. If you are interested in this ministry, or interested in helping organize the ministry, please contact Fr. Dan. And, if you know of someone that needs our help, let us know.

Sacred Heart Church Chicken Dinner

Sacred Heart of La Plata will have a Drive-Thru Fried Chicken Dinner Sunday, May 21st 11:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., or until sold out. Dinner is 4 pieces of chicken, parsley potatoes, green beans & 1 dinner roll for \$14. Buckets of chicken (8 pieces and 4 dinner rolls) are also available for \$14. Bake sale and 50/50 raffle will also be available. Raffle \$5 per ticket and winner notified by phone. For more info, call parish office at 301-934-2261.

MASS INTENTIONS & SCHEDULE

Saturday – May 13th

11:00 a.m.- First Communion

4:00 p.m.

Confessions @ 3:15 p.m.

8:30 p.m. – Our Lady of Fatima Procession
(park and meet at St. Aloysius Church)

Sunday – May 14th

Fifth Sunday of Easter

Mother’s Day

8:00 a.m. – SFX

Parishioners

11:00 a.m.



Monday – May 15th

St. Isidore

9:00 a.m.

7:00 p.m.- Confirmation with Bishop Bevard

Tuesday – May 16th

9:00 a.m. – No Mass

Wednesday – May 17th

9:00 a.m.

Thursday – May 18th

Saint Pope John I

9:00 a.m.

Friday – May 19th

9:00 a.m.

Saturday – May 20th

Saint Bernadine of Siena

4:00 p.m.

Confessions at 3:15 p.m.

Sunday – May 21st

Sixth Sunday of Easter

8:00 a.m. – SFX Parishioners

11:00 a.m. – Dorothy Anne Bond+