

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT February 24, 2008

A message from *The Catholic Standard* "Catholic Marriage Supplement, February 14, 2008"

Archdiocese of Washington encourages cohabiting couples to 'live chastely'.

By Laura Jamison – *Catholic Standard*

Most dioceses in the United States walk a fine line when they prepare cohabiting couples for marriage, said Peter Murphy, director of the Office of Family Life in the Archdiocese of Washington.

They don't want to isolate the couple, and they do not want to avoid the subject altogether, Murphy said.

During the marriage preparation course in the Archdiocese of Washington they encourage couples to "live chastely", and to avoid cohabitation, Murphy said. The archdiocese also provides counseling to priests who seek information on cohabitation.

"If individual priests have questions, we try to help them answer that, because they work one on one with relationships," he said.

From seeing the addresses of couples who turn in forms during the marriage preparation course, Murphy estimated a third of couples are cohabiting, a lower figure than the national average of more than 60 percent.

Murphy said he encourages couples to stop cohabiting because it is a teaching of the Catholic Church, and because it "deters from a sense of permanency."

"It is similar to marriage, but you can just leave. You learn to live together, but not in a safe, secure environment so when you enter into marriage the sense of permanency isn't there, and then we withhold ourselves," he said.

Jennifer Roback Morse spoke in an event sponsored by the Archdiocese of Washington about cohabitation, and in an interview with the *Catholic Standard*, she said cohabitation decreases a couple's chance of having a happy marriage.

"Cohabiting couples who get married spend less time in shared activities, they have higher levels of disagreement, less supportive behavior and more marital problems...They have a greater perception that the marriage will dissolve, and there is an undercurrent of fear," she said.

Couples living together later face an increased likelihood of divorce and domestic violence, Morse added.

Morse said it is valuable for priests to know the effects of cohabitation, so when they counsel cohabiting couples, they can explain the problems more likely to occur in their marriage.

Many people use the analogy of buying a car to explain why they want to live together before marriage, but "the car doesn't get hurt feelings if you don't decide to buy it," Morse noted.

"The Church's teachings are not out to spoil your fun. They want you to have a long married love," she said.

+ + + + +

"The Light is On For You"

"The Light Is On For You" is an archdiocesan initiative to allow all Catholics to avail themselves of the sacrament of reconciliation. This Lenten season, each Catholic parish in the Archdiocese of Washington will have confessions available every Wednesday evening from **7:00 – 8:00 pm**. If you have been reluctant to come to the sacrament, have been away for some time or just found it difficult to get to a Saturday afternoon confession time, this is a wonderful opportunity to re-connect with Christ and His Church. Dates: **Wednesdays, February 27, March 5, March 12 and March 19.**

MASS INTENTIONS

Mon., Feb 25	9:00 AM	Rev. Robert L. Strome
Tues., Feb. 26	9:00 AM	Casey Potter (L)
Thur., Feb. 28	9:00 AM	Rev. Matthew Siekierski
Fri., Feb. 29	9:00 AM	Buddy Spratt
Sat., Mar. 1	9:00 AM	Vocations
Sat., Mar. 1	5:30 PM	Mary Beth Cote
Sun., Mar. 2	8:30 AM	Parishioners
Sun., Mar 2	11:00 AM	Ted Birch

PARISH FINANCE

Offertory February 17, 2008

General Collection	\$3,959.00
Vestibule Fund	1,580.00
Church in Eastern Europe	174.00
Flower Fund	55.00
Poor Box	62.00
Identifiable Gifts	142
3 rd Sunday, February 2007	\$2,761.50

*Sacrificial Giving (Tithing) – Joyfully giving thanks to God.
Your faithful parish support is appreciated!*

Statement of 2007 Offertory Contributions may be requested by signing the yellow tablet at the doors of the church, or by calling the church office, 301-994-0607.

PRAYERS

Please remember the sick of our parish: especially Franklin Adams, Thomas Barnes, Grace Blackwell, Catherine Briscoe, Ann Clayton, Steve Cook, Mary Lou Cutchember, Vera Dilworth, Frances Dowgiallo, Mary Dyson, Agnes Evans, Mary Fox, Geraldine Gross, Ruth Guy, Zee Kerwin, Alverta Lawrence, Jean Lawrence, Herb Mattingly, Reese McKay, John Mundie, Sandy Mundie, Marian Slade, Vickey Spore, Rose Surrite, infant Christian Joshua Taylor.

Others in need of our prayers (requested by parishioners): All members of our military and their families, Mary Gail Russell Adams, Charles Andrews, Richard Bowen, infant Delaney Brooks, Sarah Burch, Betty Coffman, Shannon Copp, Phyllis Davis, Shirley Dennstaedt, Sister Louise Dowgiallo, OSB, George Fairfax, James Forrest, John Gateau, Paul Greenwell, Judy Guffey, Jack Gumtow, Michelle Hickie (in Qatar), Frank Holland, Nancy Carol Hodge, Alice Jarboe, Karen Johnson, Bill Keeton, Vivian Keeton, Teri Kehr, Rita Koegel, Ann Lanctot, Gilbert Lawrence, Doris Mattingly, Dee Mauer, Beverly McKay, Neal O'Donnell, Jr., David Peixeira, Joe and Michelle Perry, Tom Puckett, John Raley, Steve Riley, Mary Rizzo, Mary Sue Robinson, James Ronan, Loretta Rule, Nancy Schmidt, Sister Mary Rebecca, RSM, Evaon Shroeder, Palma Sileo, Gene Springer, Lillian Springer, John Stone, Sister Rose Bernard Tarleton, Jennie Umas, Carol Weber, Sue Wolhert.

DECEASED Please pray for the souls of **Francis J. Samaha, DDS**, father of Rev. Jeffrey Samaha, chaplain, Southern Maryland Hospital, and **Joan L. Pennington**, mother of Rev. Msgr. John Pennington, pastor of St. John the Evangelist Church, Silver Spring, MD. *May their souls, and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.*

Note: Please let us know when a name should be removed from our Prayer List. We are happy to know when prayers have been answered.

PARISH CALENDAR

Mon., Feb. 24	Passion Play Rehearsal, 6:30 PM, C.Center
Wed., Feb. 26	Cantor & Choir Rehearsals, 6:30 & 7 PM “The Light is On For You” Confessions, 7-8 PM. Church office.
Thur., Feb. 28	Arimathean Ministry Meeting, 6:30 PM
Fri., Feb. 29	Stations of the Cross and Mass, 7 PM
Sat, Mar. 1	First Saturday Mass and Devotion, 9 AM
Mon., Mar. 3	Lector Workshop, 6:30 PM, in Church

AREA NEWS

- Fri., Feb. 29 Lenten Seafood Dinners** at Immaculate Heart of Mary Church in Lexington Park. **4:30 – 7:00 pm.** Carry-outs available, prices vary, children’s meals available, children 3 yrs. and under eat free! Call 301-863-8144 for more information.
- Fri., Feb. 29 Comedy Show**, co-sponsored by Holy Face Knights with Pax River Officer’s Spouses Club (PROSC). Comics live from the DC Improv—Jay Hastings, Jon Mumma, and Justin Scheigel. Complementary appetizers/desserts. Beverages, beer & wine may be purchased. Must be 18 or above. \$15/person in advance, \$20 at door. Call Debbie Hammond, 301-862-4275 or 301-862-9570.
- Sun., Mar. 9 Open House, St. Mary’s Ryken, 12-3PM.** Info on admissions, scholarships and financial aid will be available. Contact Admissions Office, 301-373-4183 or visit www.smrhs.org.



Arimathean Ministry Forming

Our parish is in the process of forming a ministry to assist at funerals. For each funeral, we will be in need of 1. Hospitality minister to handle the reception, 2. A lector to read at the funeral mass, 3. A Eucharistic Minister to serve at the funeral mass, and 4. Two altar servers to assist at the funeral mass. There will be a meeting for those interested on **Thursday, February 28th at 6:30pm.**

The Road to Resurrection

Each Tuesday during Lent, a Mass will be held at different parish in St. Mary’s County at **7:00pm.** All are invited to attend.

- Tuesday, February 26 – St. Michael’s Church, Ridge**
- Tuesday, March 4 – Holy Face Church, Great Mills**
- Tuesday, March 11 – St. Peter’s Church, St. Inigoes**
- Tuesday, March 18 – Penance Service, Immaculate Heart of Mary Church, Lexington Park**



St. George Catholic Church Softball Team! St. Mary’s County Recreation, Parks and Community Services is sponsoring a Church Softball League for adults 18 and older. All games are held at Chancellors Run Regional Park and begin

in May. All teams are guaranteed 10 games. If you are interested in playing or participating please sign up on the flyer posted in the church vestibule or contact Lisa Quade (301-994-2658) or lquade@md.metrocast.net

Our **Passion Play** is fast approaching! This year’s performance of **“Golgotha”** will be presented on **Sunday, March 16** in the Community Center at **5:00pm.** This special presentation is being directed by Nick Browne, one of our own parish youth. Call the parish office if you wish to reserve seating for our parish’s final performance of Father Mark’s handiwork! 301-994-0607.

NEW BIBLE STUDY CLASS TO BEGIN AT ST. GEORGE

Come join us this spring as we study **The Book of Job.** Classes begin:
Tuesday, April 1, 10am - 11am or
Thursday, April 3, 7pm - 8pm
in the church Community Center.



Classes end **Tuesday, May 27** and **Thursday, May 29.**

Please call Carol Fugate, 301-994-3659 for information or to **sign up by Monday, March 10.** If you call between February 29 and March 9, your call will be returned on March 10.

RETREAT OPPORTUNITIES

- **“LOVE THE LORD WITH ALL YOUR HEART”** A retreat given by Fr. Angelus M. Shaughessy, OFM, Capuchin will take place **March 26-28** at the Loyola Retreat House. Cost will be \$185.00. Please contact Helen Lucas (301-934-4266) for a registration form. This retreat is sponsored by St. Joseph’s Secular Carmel of Port Tobacco.
- The Restorers of Mt. Carmel are sponsoring a mini-retreat at Mt. Carmel Monastery in LaPlata on **March 29.** The theme is **DIVINE MERCY** and the retreat master will be Msgr. Parent. The retreat will be held from **8:00am – 3:00pm** and will include snacks, beverages, lunch, several talks, confessions, Benediction and Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, the Rosary, meditation time and more. Cost - \$25/person. For registration, call Suzanne Carr (301-645-5203).

SCHEDULES	ALTAR SERVERS	ORGANIST/CANTOR	LECTORS	EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS	GREETERS	SCRIPTURE READINGS
Sat., Mar 1 5:30 PM	K. Fann M. Bowes	B. Carpenter B. Barnes	R. Fann D. Fann	Deacon L’Heureux C. Galli C. Norris	J. Adams Volunteer	First: 1 Sm 16:1b, 6-7, 10-13a
Sun., Mar 2 8:30 AM	J. Holden G. Holden N. Browne	B. Carpenter D. Orwig	J. Blackwell D. Adams	Deacon L’Heureux B. Adams G. Holden	W. Blackwell T. Goddard	Second: Eph 5:8-1147
Sun., Mar 3 11:00 AM	E. Spore O. Spore K. Hills	B. Carpenter	N. Knott T. Galligan	Deacon L’Heureux M. Taylor A. Taylor	R. Cutchember H. Young	Gospel: John 9: 1-41

Daily Mass Lectors, Feb. 25, 26, 28, 29, Mar. 1: C. Galli, N. Neel, D. Orwig, A. Fenwick, Volunteer
Eucharistic Ministers, Feb. 25, 26, 28, 29, Mar. 1: D. Adams & M. Goldsmith, J. Blackwell & P. Browne
 C. Galli & P. Browne, D. Orwig & G. Holden, Volunteers
Meals on Wheels, Feb. 26, 27, 28: M.A. Hammett & M.J. O’Connor, K. & J. Owens, C. Fugate
Altar Preparation, Mar. 1: P. Browne

