

**SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT**  
**February 28, 2010**



**"A Letter to Fr. Joe" Cancer! Why Me?**

*Today is my nineteenth birthday. The celebration I had planned is canceled. A routine visit to the doctor turned up cancer. Surgery is scheduled the day after tomorrow. I am feeling very angry. Why is this happening to me? J.L.*

Dear J.L.,

The crisis you face raises one of the most challenging questions in our world: Why do bad things happen? Like all who love you, my wish would be for a miracle that would allow you to wake up in the morning completely healed. Unfortunately, we both know it's not that simple.

Pain and suffering, illness and disease, the existence of evil - these defy explanation. Suffering hurts, and so we attack it as a problem to be solved. Yet often it is more a mystery that must be experienced and even accepted.

Faith enters at this point. When reality is beyond human understanding, we find in our faith an ability not only to cope but to conquer. In seemingly insurmountable circumstances, faith becomes a conquering power, for we can trace our suffering to the ultimate mystery of Jesus' own dying and rising.

In Chapter 12 of Paul's Second Letter to the Corinthians, Paul speaks of "a thorn in the flesh." More than likely, he was referring to a physical disability that caused Paul at times to be angry. With faith he finally concludes "in weakness [God's] power reaches perfection." Our tendency in crisis is to ask if we're strong enough. Paul turns it upside down: Am I weak enough to accept my imperfection and to find in all of this a link to a God who loves me so much that he took on our human weaknesses?

And where is God in your suffering? He is exactly where he's been all along, right beside you. I don't expect you to accept this unconditionally, but I would ask you one favor. Whisper this little prayer once or twice a day: *Lord God, your Son suffered even to death so we might conquer our pain and suffering and know the fullness of life. Help me join my cross to his and to be open to your will and your love.*

Finally, it's all right to feel angry and even to express your anger to those around you. Your anger is testimony to the hunger for life that God planted deep within you. It is a dimension of your instinct to fight, an instinct that, together with faith, will carry you to victory and enable you one day to look back on this time in your story and see it as one of the most life-giving moments in your grace-filled existence.

Father Joe Guthrie, C.S.S.R.

*Article approved by  
Msgr. Paul*

Don't forget our parish website: [www.stgeorgerc.org](http://www.stgeorgerc.org). We try very hard to keep our site updated with the latest happenings!

You can also find us on Facebook - become a fan of St. George Catholic Church!

**FEAST DAYS OF THE WEEK**

Wed., Mar. 3 St. Catherine Drexel  
Thur. Mar. 4 St. Casimir  
Fri., Mar. 5 First Friday (Lenten Day of Abstinence)

**MASS INTENTIONS**

Mon., Mar. 1	9:00 AM	Emily Chimiak
Tues., Mar. 2	9:00 AM	Ronald Evans
Thur., Mar. 4	9:00 AM	Rev. Thomas J. Sheehan
Fri., Mar. 5	9:00 AM	Hilda Mowery
Sat., Mar. 6	9:00 AM	Vocations
Sat., Mar. 6	5:00 PM	Mary Gale Adams
Sun., Mar. 7	8:30 AM	Howard Britton, Sr.
Sun., Mar. 7	11:00 AM	Jeanne Schmidt

**PARISH FINANCE**  
**Offertory February 14, 2010**

General Collection	\$4450.00
Vestibule Fund	1696.00
Poor Box	282.00
Food Lion Shop & Share	55.51

**Gratitude for your faithful parish support.**

**PRAYERS**

**Please remember the sick of our parish:**

especially Franklin Adams, Louise Adams, Ellen Andrews, Thomas Barnes, Agnes Geneva Blackwell, Catherine Briscoe, Ann Clayton, Alice Countess, Paul Dickens, Joan Dorsey, Mary Dyson, Christine Galli, Kristin Hibbs, Gail Holden, Dorothy Lampkin, Alverta Lawrence, Mary Nellie Lawrence, Theresa Lawrence, Frances Morgan, John Mundie, Gloria Robinson, Marian Slade, infant Christian Joshua Taylor, Arianna Tiger.



**Others in need of our prayers** (requested by parishioners):

All members of our military and their families. Victims and survivors of the earthquake in Haiti. Charles Andrews, Robert Aycock, Wallace Berry, Richard Bowen, Sarah Burch, Byrn, Betty Coffman, Shannon Copp, Benjamin Countess, Caroline Countess, Arielle Davis, Phyllis Davis, James Dean, Ronald Dews, Fran Dicus, Ray Dicus, Julie Marable Donaldson, Diane Dorsey, Sister Louise Dowgiallo, OSB, George Fairfax, Ruth Farr, John Gateau, Mary Gavarinski, Paul Greenwell, James Gross, Judy Guffie, Jack Gumtrow, Sue Hoag, Mary Ann Hulth, Barbara Hunter, Wendy Jackson, Cathleen Johnson, Bill Keeton, Vivian Keeton, William Kelmickis, Lois Krzeski, Cathy LaBelle, Lee Lancaster, Ann Lancot, Dr. Claude Lancot, Lovetta Lawrence, Danny Mahoney, Joseph Martin, Doris Mattingly, Dee Mauer, J. P. McCord, Barbara McDonnell, Maria McGuigan, Beverly McKay, Beth Meister, Vicki Moak, Margaret Murray, David Peixeira, John Pierce, Donna Poudrier, Tom Puckett, Eleanor Raley, Sharon Redman, Tony Reeves, Carol Rice, Mary Sue Robinson, James Ronan, Loretta Rule, Nancy Schmidt, Raymond Schmidt, Hunter Scott, Ami Shah, Evaon Shroeder, Palma Sileo, Sister Mary Rebecca, RSM, Sister Rose Bernard Tarleton, Matthew Thomas, Dewayne Thompson, Jennie Umas, Rose Varela, Tom & Liz Warren, Elizabeth Weatherly, Gracie Webb, Bette Werner, Eugene Wright, Bob Ziebol.

**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**

Sun., Feb. 28 C.C.D./R.C.I.A., 9:30 AM, Comm. Center  
 Sun., Feb. 28 Children's Choir Rehearsal, 12 PM  
 Sun., Feb. 28 "Teen Timeline" for high school teens, 6-7:30 PM, Community Center.  
 Tues., Mar. 2 Scripture Study (Luke's Gospel) 10 AM  
 Wed., Mar. 3 Cantor/Choir Rehearsals, 6:30 & 7 PM  
 Thur., Mar. 4 Novena of Grace begins, after 9am Mass  
 Thur., Mar. 4 Scripture Study, 7 PM, Comm. Center  
 Fri., Mar. 5 First Friday Mass, 9 AM, followed by Eucharistic Holy Hour.  
 Fri., Mar. 5 Lenten Stations of the Cross, 7 PM  
 Sat. Mar. 6 First Saturday Mass and Devotion, 9 AM  
 Sat., Mar. 6 Rosary Devotion, 4:30 PM, in Church  
 Sun., Mar. 7 Children's Liturgy, 11:00 AM  
 Sun., Mar. 7 Lenten Family Pretzel Making, 12 Noon, Community Center. (Open for all families.)  
 Mon., Mar. 8 C.C.D. Students Stations of the Cross Practice, 6:30 PM, in Church

**Novena of Grace to St. Francis Xavier**

**March 4 - March 12 at St. George Church after 9AM Mass**  
 HISTORY: The Novena of Grace, which begins March 4<sup>th</sup> and ends on the 12<sup>th</sup>, the day of the canonization of St. Francis Xavier, owes its origin to the Saint himself. At Naples, in December 1633, Father Marcello Mastrilli, S.J. was at the point of death. The Saint appeared to him and bidding him renew a vow he had made to labor in Japan said:  
 PROMISE: "All those who implore my help daily for nine consecutive days, from the 4<sup>th</sup> to the 12<sup>th</sup> of March included, and worthily receive the Sacraments of Penance and the Holy Eucharist on one of the nine days, will experience my protection and may hope with entire assurance to obtain from God any grace they ask for the good of their souls and the glory of God." The Father arose, instantly cured. So well has the Saint kept this promise that this devotion in his honor became universally known as the Novena of Grace.  
 [March 12 is the date that St. Francis Xavier and St. Ignatius of Loyola were canonized in 1622.]



**RETREATS**

**Mar. 19-21 St. Mary's County Women's Retreat at Loyola Retreat House.** Info: call Retreat House, 301-392-0801.  
**Sat., Mar. 20 Mini-retreat at Mount Carmel, begins with mass at 8 AM, ends 3 PM.** Day of prayer, talks, confessions, rosary, refreshments. Call Suzanne Carr, 301-645-5203.

**SCHEDULES:**

	<b>ALTAR SERVERS</b>	<b>ORGANIST/CANTOR</b>	<b>LECTORS</b>	<b>EUCCHARISTIC MINISTER</b>	<b>GREETERS</b>	<b>SCRIPTURE READINGS</b>
<b>Sat., Mar. 6 5:00 PM</b>	G. Holden J. Holden	B. Carpenter	J. Heather K. Owens	Deacon L'Heureux	J. Adams Volunteer	First: Ex 3:1-8a, 13-15
<b>Sun., Mar. 7 8:30 AM</b>	J. Lynch J. Shotwell N. Shotwell	J. Lenderman D. Orwig	D. Adams L. Rose	R. Rose	H. Young D. Adams	Second: 1 Cor 10:1-6, 10-12
<b>Sun., Mar. 7 11:00 AM</b>	M. Emmerich M. Emmerich J. Newman	B. Carpenter 4 <sup>th</sup> Grade students	4 <sup>th</sup> Grader 4 <sup>th</sup> Grader	J. Carpenter M. Taylor (Choir)	4 <sup>th</sup> Graders J. Robison	Gospel: Lk 13:1-9

**Daily Mass Lectors, Mar. 1, 2, 4, 5:** A. Fenwick, M. Goldsmith, T. Buckler, D. Adams  
**Meals on Wheels, Mar. 2, 3, 4:** L. Quade, B. Adams, M. A. Rymer  
**Altar Preparation, Mar. 6:** J. Heather

**LITTLE FLOWER SCHOOL NEWS**

**"500 Club"** memberships are currently being sold. This is a monthly raffle with prizes each month totaling \$950. Your chances of winning each month are 1 in 8. Cost: \$100/year, payable quarterly or annually. Info: C. Damon, 240-398-0157  
**Mulch Sale Annual Spring Mulch Sale, March 20, 2010.**  
 3 cubic foot bag of hardwood mulch, \$3.85. All orders must be received by **March 5**. For more info or to order, call Susan Hammel, 301-862-4861 or kachmannj@verizon.net.

**AREA NEWS**

**February 28-March 6 St. George Episcopal Church hosting WARM,** providing breakfast, dinner and overnight accommodations for 25 area homeless guests. If you can help in any way, please contact Phil Horne or Brent Schmitt, 301-994-2783.  
**Sat., Mar. 6 New Date for Casino Night at Bowles Farm, Clements, MD, to benefit Mother Catherine Spalding School, 6PM-12 Midnight.** Dinner and cash bar available. Admission: \$5. Must be 21 to enter. Info: 301-904-4020 or 301-884-3165.  
**March 11-14 Men's Cursillo Weekend.** For information, call Kelli Baxter, 301-613-9115.  
**Sat., Mar. 13 Spring Craft Fair, 9am-3pm, Valley Lee Firehall.** Variety of crafts, baked goods, etc. Sponsored and prepared by 2<sup>nd</sup> Dist F.D. & R.S. Auxiliary.  
**Sun., Mar. 14 All You Can Eat Breakfast, 8-11 AM** by 2<sup>nd</sup> Dist F.D. & R.S. Auxiliary. \$8 adults; \$4 children 5-12 yrs; under 5, FREE. Excellent menu, variety of foods.  
**Fri., Mar. 19 St. John's "Luck of the Irish" Longaberger Basket Bingo. Doors open 6 PM, Bingo 7 PM.** Msgr. Harris Center. Info: 301-373-5871; [Lindagreer@gmail.com](mailto:Lindagreer@gmail.com)  
**Sat., Mar. 20 Lenten Day of Reflection, Refreshment and Renewal in Southern Maryland, 8 AM-3PM, Holy Face Church.** Conducted by Rev. Joseph Sileo. Please register by **Saturday, March 13.** 301-862-2264 (leave a message) or e-mail [hogannutt@aol.com](mailto:hogannutt@aol.com).  
**April 23-25 Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend in Lexington Park, MD.** Reserve the time now by calling 301-541-7007 or e-mail for info and registration form: [wme@whalenfamily.com](mailto:wme@whalenfamily.com)

**Notice:** Despite the cancelation of the **Annual Lobby Night** in Annapolis, due to unsafe weather conditions, it is hoped that participants will still be able to offer a **"testimony of charity"** to our elected officials in Annapolis, even if not in person. Details on alternative ways to contact your state legislators will be available on the Maryland Catholic Conference website, [www.mdcatcon.org](http://www.mdcatcon.org).

