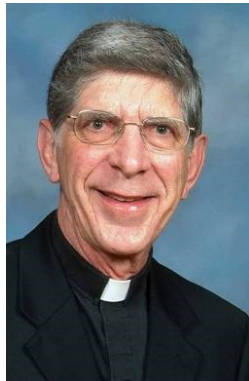


St. Patrick
CATHOLIC CHURCH

*Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the holy Spirit.
Matthew 28:19*

Shamrock News

Winter 2017 - 2018 Edition



**Fr. Jim Angert, T.O.R.
Pastor**

Gifts are freely given and gifts are freely received. We ponder and are absolutely amazed at the greatest of all gifts at this time of year and that gift is Jesus. The name Jesus means God saves and Jesus came to save us from sin, evil and the devil. Everyone has memorized John 3:16 which is: "Yes, God so loved the world that he gave his only Son so that those who believe in Him may not perish but may have eternal life." Here we see the gift of Jesus freely given which allows us to freely receive this gift of salvation and eternal life. The source of this gift is divine and it does not come from our resources or our abilities, but from

God our Father. In the church we are all members of this great family of God. This life is nurtured by prayer and the sacraments, especially the Eucharist. Meditate on the words of John 6:52-58 when Jesus said: "I am the living bread come down from heaven, whoever eats this bread will live forever. Whoever eats my body and drinks my blood remains in me and I in him." Through this great gift at Mass, we are able to live our daily lives with the certitude that the Lord is living in us and we are living in the Lord as growing disciples.

The gift of Jesus is a clear sign of God the Father's love for us. Likewise, the gift you give during this Christmas season is a sign of the love you have for the one you give a gift. The gifts we receive are also a sign of the love that others have for us. God's love becomes present and real thru all of us. God has given us the greatest mission on earth to be growing disciples who grow other disciples by loving God and one another. This gives us meaning, purpose and a clear direction for our lives. Our response to gifts given is to say "Thank you." The Eucharist means Thanksgiving. As God the Father enriches our lives with the gift of Jesus, ponder also during the Christmas season how much you enrich the lives of others thru your gift of self which is freely given.



O Come, O Come Emmanuel

Reflection written by Melissa Wentzel

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel. All of us have, in moments of desperation, echoed the words of this popular hymn and pleaded for divine intervention.

We seek God when we receive bad news from a doctor or a boss. We seek Him in the middle of the night, while feeding a newborn baby or cramming for final exams. We seek Him after a dinner brunt; a car broken; a bill unpaid; a love unrequited.

In these moments, we can feel impossibly, incredibly alone. We taste and touch the limits of our human capacity, and we instinctively reach for someone divine.

The popular hymn, *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*, not only reflects that impulse, it directs it. The verses, adapted from the Magnificat canticle of Evening Prayer, describe our suffering. More importantly, however, they describe our God. Christ is Emmanuel, or “God with us.” He is also Wisdom and the Lord of Might. He is the Rod of Jesse and the Key of David. He is the Bright & Morning Star and the Desire of Nations.



O come, O Bright and Morning Star, and bring us comfort from afar! Dispel the shadows of the night and turn our darkness into light.



O come, O Wisdom from on high, who ordered all things mightily; to us the path of knowledge show and teach us in its ways to go.

Each of these titles portray Christ as the fulfillment of the Old Testament prophecies of the Savior. While some are less familiar to the modern ear, they all describe a God who is incredibly powerful and intimately present. He is not distant or indifferent. He is a God embedded in the world. He is a God incarnated in the flesh.

As *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel* professes, our God is always with us, even when we struggle to feel His presence. Christmas, thankfully, is a perfect time to consider how we can better connect with God. Perhaps it is by praying the Rosary on the way to work or reading the daily Scripture passages before bed. Maybe it is by attending Mass or Confession more frequently. Maybe it is by coming to our Parish Mission next month, joining a prayer group, or participating in a service project.

Christmas reminds us that God has come to us, despite our imperfections. How can we best receive Him over the next year? How can we best respond to the God who is with us?

If we take the time to reflect on these questions now, then we will be able to better weather those moments of desperation. We will not crumble in the face of an unpaid bill or an unrequited love. Instead, like the Israelites, we will rejoice. Emmanuel has come to us. Rejoice, indeed.

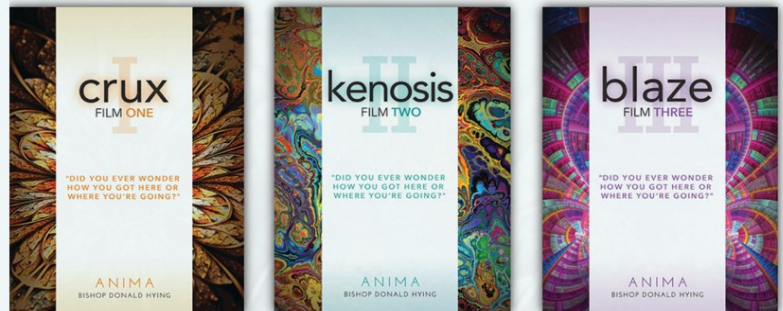
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.



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Crux directs our minds to the core, decisive point of our existence. In this session, Bishop Donald Hying helps us to explore the most fundamental question of the human heart: What is the purpose of my life? Bishop Hying guides us in contemplating the road signs in ordinary life which point to God's greater plan for the world and ultimate salvation.

Kenosis is a Greek word that means "emptying." In this session, we are introduced to the Person of Jesus, who emptied himself to become human in the Incarnation. Bishop Hying explains how the Incarnation is God's answer to our longing for a "God with skin on," a God who is near and intimate with our human experience. Jesus invites us to imitate this gift by allowing our own suffering to open our hearts to greater compassion and mercy for others.

Blaze is a reference to the fire of the Holy Spirit falling upon the Apostles on the Feast of Pentecost. It was by the power of the Holy Spirit that the Apostles were sent to spread the good news and be a light to the world. This is the beginning of the Church which continues to be a light for the world today. We, as members of the Body of Christ, are incorporated into the Church and are called to be witnesses.



Register Today at: FORMED.org Parishioners, enter code: **3673ec**

Our Parish Mission - Called to be Growing Disciples

Please accept this invitation to attend our **"Called to be Growing Disciples"** Mission, led by Fr. Kevin MacDonald, C.Ss.R., a Redemptorist priest from the Diocese of Boston, MA. Our Parish Mission will be a wonderful opportunity to help us prepare for our 2018 Lenten Season.

A Parish Mission is a series of presentations on the Word of God. Each evening is different, yet, each evening will consist of a proclamation of the Word, reflections, singing and praying together. It will be a grace-filled happening, an opportunity to experience in a special way the saving presence of God.



If you have abandoned the faith of your youth, the mission is for you. If you have been on-again, off-again in the practice of your Catholic religion, the mission is for you. If you have wondered what is going on in the Church today, the mission is for you. If you judge yourself to be in need of spiritual growth, the mission is for you. If you are a sinner or a saint or somewhere in between, the mission is for you. *The mission is for everyone, but especially for you.*

Our Mission will begin the weekend of January 27 & 28, 2018, when Fr. Kevin will preach at all Masses. The Mission presentations will be on four nights: January 29, 30, 31, and February 1st. Through symbols and song, Fr. Kevin will help us have a deeper understanding of our faith. We are called to move more deeply into the word of God through the Bible; We are called to see Jesus present in others and to be light to them; We are called to become bread for others by receiving Jesus in the Eucharist, and We are called to go forth to witness to what we have become through our faith in Christ. The nightly presentations will begin at 7PM and last one hour. Fr. Kevin will preach at the daily Masses, giving a shortened version of his nightly presentation.

Please join in praying for the success of our mission for our parish family and plan now to share in this very special grace-filled time. Make Lent 2018 a truly spiritual time by taking the time to prepare through our Parish Mission.



God, Our Father, we offer you praise and thanksgiving for all the many gifts you have given us through Jesus, Your Son. We thank you especially for the gift of our Parish Mission. Loving and gracious God, quiet our minds and hearts, that we may be open to the gift of your truth.

Grant that our Mission may be:

a Time of Grace for all,
a Time of growth for the young,
a Time of refreshment for the old,
a Time of renewal for families,
a Time of healing for the broken,
a Time of joy for the sorrowing,
a Time of challenge for the complacent,
a Time of forgiveness for the sinner,
a Time of strength for the holy,
a Time of homecoming for those who have been away.

Grant, most Loving God, that our Mission may bring down your richest blessings on each and every member of our Parish community.

We pray through the intercession of Mary, our Mother, in the name of Jesus Christ who lives with you and the Holy Spirit forever.

Amen.



A Moment in Prayer—Lectio Divina

Lectio Divina is a method for praying with and meditating on Scripture. There are four movements to Lectio Divina: read (Lectio), meditate (Meditatio), pray (Oratio), and contemplate (Contemplatio). These four movements flow together to engage the person in a prayerful process of divine reading of the Scriptures.

A Process for Lectio Divina

Quiet your body and mind. Become aware of your breathing, recognizing God’s life breathing into you. You may wish to repeat a word or phrase to help you quiet and focus, such as “Be still and know that I am God.” (Psalm 46:10)

Choose a Scripture passage. Then, read the Scripture passage four times, leaving a few minutes of silence in between each reading.

- **Lectio, Read** - Read the passage slowly, listening with the ear of the heart. Notice if any phrase, sentence or word stands out and gently begin to repeat it to yourself, allowing it to touch you deeply.

- * What does that word or phrase mean to you?
- * Why do you think that word or phrase touches your heart?
- * What is God saying to you in that word or phrase?
- * You may not get through the entire passage if words and phrases touch your heart, but that is okay.



- **Meditatio, Meditate** - Reflect while you read the passage a second time. Notice what is arising within you. Let the words resound in your heart. Sit quietly and listen for God’s voice. Contemplate the meaning of the passage, and think about what God might be saying to you through those words and phrases.



- **Oratio, Pray** - Respond to the passage spontaneously with prayer. Notice any prayerful response that arises within you.

- **Contemplatio, Contemplate** - The fourth time you read the passage, sit in silence afterwards, resting in God’s presence. Just be.

End your meditation and contemplation with a prayer of thanksgiving and praise to God. You may pray the Glory Be or create your own prayer.





Thank you to all of our wonderful photographers and our smiling parish community.
Thank you for sharing your time, talent, love and joy with all of us!



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