

A Note from the Pastor

Dear Parishioners,

You may have heard that Father Christian is in Nigeria now to visit his mother and his family. May he have a safe, pleasant trip. Father plans to be back here the last few days of February so until then Father Wilson and I will be celebrating all the Masses and covering the regular duties of the priests. Please continue to pray for an increase in holy vocations to the Priesthood. A parish like ours really needs three priests on staff and perhaps some additional assistance but there are not enough priests to go around. We are fine in terms of coverage now but, unless there is a turnaround in terms of ordinations, parishes in the Archdiocese, including this one, will not have enough priests to serve the people well.

As I said, though, everything is covered here now, and Father Wilson and I want to highlight the importance of the Sacraments and the World Day of the Sick.

Pope Saint John Paul II instituted the World Day of the Sick in 1993, celebrated each year on February 11th, (this Monday). Monday is also the Feast Day (or Memorial) of Our Lady of Lourdes. Lourdes is a very special place. St. Bernadette received the visions of Our Blessed Mother there, the first of which occurred on February 11, 1858. Lourdes has become one of the most popular places for pilgrimages and places dedicated to the Blessed Mother. There have been many reports of miraculous healings there and it is a place for spiritual renewal and comfort as well. A place of spiritual strength. The World Day of the Sick is a special day of prayer for those who are sick or suffering. For those who feel the need for the graces of the Sacrament of the Sick, Father Wilson and I will offer the anointing after the 9am and 7:30pm Masses on Monday, February 11th. If anyone at home or in a nursing home or at church is in need of the sacrament any other time, please let us know. Anyone who is able to receive the other sacraments is able to receive the Sacrament of the Sick.

Let us all pray for those who need God's help and healing power due to illness or suffering. May our Blessed Mother intercede for her children who are in need. St. Bernadette, St. John Paul II and all the saints, pray for us.

Sincerely in Christ,

Monsignor Giandurco