



# THE FISH NET

The official Newsletter of

SAINT MARIA GORETTI CATHOLIC MEN'S FELLOWSHIP

March- April 2019

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## ABOUT US

The Saint Maria Goretti Catholic Men's fellowship is a group where men explore the faith together, help each to grow spiritually, learn from each other, explore what it means to be a catholic man in today's world, and enable men to mature spiritually and live a fuller expression of the catholic faith in the context of other like-minded men. The group meets bi-weekly and sponsors events throughout the year where men share and grow spiritually. The Saint Maria Goretti Catholic Men's Fellowship group is affiliated with the National Fellowship of Catholic Men.

## ASHES AND FISH FRIES



It's that time of year again, when on one Wednesday it seems as though 90 percent of the population crowd into the church to receive the cross of ashes on their foreheads signifying the beginning of lent. The practice of receiving ashes on Ash Wednesday has spread from the Catholic Church to other denominations as many of our protestant brothers and sisters now holy Ash Wednesday Services and in some cases offer drive thru ashes. It also that time of year where every Friday nearly every Catholic Church has a fish fry offering fried fish, baked macaroni, peas, potato salad, cake, and bread for a nominal fee since we catholics abstain from eating meat on the Fridays of Lent. While some may believe that Lent is the time of year to sample fried catfish throughout the city, it is much more that ashes and fish fries. *Lent and each Friday in memory of the death of the Lord are intense moments of the Church's penitential practice. These times are particularly appropriate for spiritual exercise, penitential liturgies, and pilgrimages as signs of penance, voluntary self denial such as fasting and almsgiving, and fraternal sharing (charitable and missionary works).* (CCC1438) For us men of faith, Lent is a time of action. It is a time for spiritual practices leading us and our families closer to the Lord. Spiritual practices such as daily mass, reading scripture, Lectio Divino, praying the rosary as a family, and Stations of the cross. It is a time for us to grow spiritually; taking time everyday to sit along in silence meditating on the word of God or simply taking to God about of fears, concerns, troubles, and giving Him thanks for the blessings that He has given us. It is a time for us to repent and help others. It is a time of introspection as we seek ways to overcome our weaknesses and strive to live as Jesus calls us to live. He'll tell us and equip us to live our calling if only we ask Him and are willing to submit our will to His; just as we claim to do when we pray the Our Father. This year , let each of us remember that these forty days of Lent units us to the mystery of Jesus' forty days in the desert where He overcame Satan's temptations . So on Ash Wednesday receive the Blessed Ashes in the shape of the cross and enjoy the fish fries on Fridays, but let's also seek the Lord each day of Lent and the entire year.

## WOUNDED



Recent studies have shown that many of us live with the wounds of past experiences that affect the way that we respond to life's situations. Studies also show that woman handle these hurts better than men because they are more apt to talk about things with their friends and to release their emotions and move on. Not so for us men; we tend to keep things bottled up inside. We tend to push the pain aside and replace it with other things maybe hobbies, or alcohol, sports, or in some case we just down our emotions so that we don't feel the pain. The end result is the same; the wounds fester. Being men, we believe that no one will understand or that we can handle it on our own. But we don't have to! We have a savior, a redeemer, a brother, and a friend in Jesus who waits for us ready to heal the wounds and make us whole. As the Prophet Isaiah foretold, *"Yet it was our infirmities that he bore, our suffering that he endured. But he was pierced through for our offenses, crushed for our sins. Upon him was the chastisement that makes us whole."* (Is 53:4-5) Jesus has suffered and died for us , He wants us to know Him; and have a relationship with Him. He is there in the silence of our prayer space, He is there in the Blessed Sacrament in the adoration chapel longing for us to spend some time with Him. This season of Lent is the perfect time for each of us to reach out to Jesus getting closer to Him in prayer , going to Him in faith as He heals us as we make our own Lenten sacrifices. Then as we celebrate the resurrection of Christ we'll also celebrate no longer being wounded but restored in Christ.

## Give Up or Give In

As we approach Ash Wednesday and the beginning of Lent, most of us will begin to contemplate the question of a Lenten sacrifice with the age old question, "What will I give up this lent?" Some may give up dessert, some may give up alcohol, some may give up smoking, and some may even give up Lent. But what if instead of asking ourselves what we're willing to give up we ask the Holy Spirit what He wants us to give in to? We may have thoughts about get involved with a ministry, praying more, going to mass a couple of weekdays, spending time in adoration, or simply getting closer to God that just won't go away regardless of many times we try to ignore it. Now is a good time to prayerfully consider that the Holy Spirit is calling us to a better relationship with the Lord for our salvation. Now is a time to prayerfully consider that the Holy Spirit has a need for us to work for the Kingdom of God and is calling us to His service. Now is a good time to consider that the Holy Spirit is calling us to 40 days of spiritual growth in preparation for something beyond our wildest dreams. As we prepare ourselves to celebrate the solemn days of lent, let each man of faith consider whether it's better to give one guilty pleasure for 40 days or to give in to the Holy Spirit for 40days that will change our lives.

## He Remain In Me and I in Him, Now What?

In the sixth Chapter of the Gospel of John, Jesus says that “*whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood, remain in me and I in him.*” (Jn 6:56) Think about it! Every time that we receive the Eucharist at mass we leave with the body, blood, soul, and divinity of Jesus inside of us. Yet, we all too often take this fact for granted. But if we really think about and accept Jesus’ word we also accept the responsibility that comes with remaining in Christ. Once we receive the Eucharist recognizing that Jesus remains in us we don’t want to defile Him by our misdeeds. We want to surrender to the will of the Father and live our lives according to the commands and teachings of Jesus as passed down to us by the church. We’ll strive to look at others through the eyes of Christ with love, compassion, and mercy, remembering that we are all children of God. We’ll strive to seek the goodness in others and willing forgive those who offend us. We’ll spend more time in prayer seeking the will of our Heavenly Father and opening up or hearts to the Spirit for guidance. And yet, even in our weak human nature, when we fall to sin, Jesus is waiting to forgive us in the Sacrament of Reconciliation so that we can once again receive Him in the Eucharist so that He can remain in us and us in Him.

## Rise Up



In a few short weeks we’ll celebrate the Resurrection of our Lord rejoicing in his victory over sin and death. Many of us will celebrate with family gatherings and feasts , and Easter egg hunts. But in the midst of our celebrations we often forget that this is a time for us to Rise Up and rejoice. St. Paul tells us, “*You were buried with him in baptism, in which you were raised with in through faith in the power of God who raised him from the dead.*” (Col 2 12) Through the grace of baptism we are resurrected with Jesus receiving the mark of the Holy Spirit identifying us as children of God. As such we are to “*seek what is above where Christ is seated at the right hand of God, Think of what is above, not of what is on earth. For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ your life appears, then you will appear with him in glory.*” (Col 3:1-4) A life with Christ is surely worth celebrating and striving for. This Easter as we renew our Baptismal promises let us remember that we to will Rise Up with Jesus.

## PRAYER CORNER

### Prayers in Honor of the Holy Face of Jesus

O Lord Jesus Christ, in presenting ourselves before Thine adorable Face to ask of Thee the graces of which we stand most in need, we beseech Thee, above all, to grant us that interior disposition of never refusing at any time to do what Thou requires of us by Thy holy commandments and divine inspiration. Amen

Adorable Face of my Jesus, my only love, my light, and my life, grant that I may know, love, and serve Thee alone, That I may live with Thee, of Thee, by Thee, and For Thee. Amen



## HAVE MERCY

Who among us can remember hearing the elders exclaim “ Have Mercy!” whenever they received bad news? Many of us react the same way today. Without giving it any thought, we are actually imploring the Lord to have mercy on those involved. Scripture tells us that God’s mercy is endless and available for all you seek it. Jesus told St. Faustina that he longs for souls to come to Him and receive His mercy. During every apparition to St. Faustina Jesus spoke of His endless mercy and desire for all of us to ask for it and for her to tell the world about it. In doing so, He directed her to tell the Pope that He desired that the first Sunday after Easter would be a feast day dedicated to His divine mercy , thus, we celebrate Divine Mercy Sunday. But Jesus didn’t stop there, He gave St. Faustina the Chaplet of Divine Mercy for all of us to pray and avail ourselves to his mercy. St. Faustina tells us that Jesus said “The souls that say this chaplet will be embraced by My mercy during their lifetime and especially at the hour of their death.” As we approach Divine Mercy Sunday, pray the Chaplet and Have Mercy. For more information about the Divine Mercy and St. Faustina, go to <https://www.marian.org/whatwedo/>.

## HOLY WEEK OR WEEK OF THE HOLY

Holy Week begins of April 14, 2019 with the church remembering Jesus’ entrance into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday. As in our custom at St. Maria Goretti, Holy Week is a week of holy activities culminating with the celebration of our Lord’s Resurrection on Easter. We begin the week with Palm Sunday mass , then our Parish Lenten Mission on April 15-17 at 7PM in the church. This year’s presenter is Mr. Al Carter, a catholic evangelist whose test is a testimony to God. Then we enter the Holy Triduum with the Mass of the Lord’s Supper on Holy Thursday, the Passion of the Lord and Veneration on the cross on Good Friday, and the Easter Vigil Mass at 8PM on Holy Saturday. Come as a family for a Week of Holy.

## COMING EVENTS

March 1, 2019 - Men’s Rosary for Peace; 6:00pm- Chapel  
March 2, 2019- Lord Teach Me To Pray; 8:00am - Center Rms 3-4  
March 9, 2019- Lord Teach Me To Pray; 8:00am - Center Rms 3-4  
March 13,2019- Meeting; 7:00pm - Center library  
March16, 2019- Lord Teach Me To Pray; 8:00am - Center Rms 3-4  
March16, 2019-Family Movie Night- 6:30pm-center  
March 23, 2019- Lord Teach Me To Pray; 8:00am - Center Rms 3-4  
March 27, 2019- Meeting; 7:00pm - Center library  
April 5, 2019- Men’s Rosary for Peace; after 6:00pm Mass-Church  
April10, 2019- Meeting; 7:00pm - Center library  
April13, 2019- Lord Teach Me To Pray; 8:00am - Center Rms 3-4  
April20, 2019-Lord Teach Me To Pray; 8:00am - Center Rms 3-4  
April 15-17 Parish Lenten Mission-7:00pm-Church  
April 24, 2019- Meeting; 7:00pm - Center library