

Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.

This is one of the most profound and yet misunderstood passages in the Bible. We tend to link 'meek' with being little and ineffective, lacking courage or strength. The original Greek word means good will toward man and reverent obedience toward God. If "poor in spirit" is the opposite of "proud in spirit," "meek" is the opposite of "hostile aggression." The meek do not assert self, trampling over others. The Jews asserted their pride of race, the Romans their pride of power, the Greeks their pride of knowledge. But the meek are content to walk in the shadow of God.

The unGodly are by nature on the defensive. This inherent defensiveness a result of our fallen nature is the key. Such defenses are walls, and these walls keep us from the real world of personal relationships. Only the meek, who trust and obey God, have both the personal stability and moral security given by God so as to be truly open to the world of personal relationship. The untrusting and disobedient cannot afford to be open, to take off their defensive layers of armor. The world is too threatening.

Josef Stalin had taunted the Pope at one point: "How many divisions does the Pope have???" But Stalin never inherited the earth, not even Russia. His daughter said that he died a beaten, broken, and bitter man. His defenses and all his divisions could not save him. He died totally alienated from the real world, the one designed by God.

But the Godly meek shed their artificial suits of armor, open to the world, and, like Jesus, with a holy meekness retake the world for Christ.

A part of that meekness is being a truth-seeker, one who admits the he could be wrong, and wants to *know* if he is wrong. He is therefore willing to put his beliefs to an open, honest "reasoning together," as God invites us to do, not only with our fellow humans, but with Himself. You could reason with Him, *as did the disciples*. Leading us into that humility is a fundamental part of our salvation. The meek will inherit the earth.

God has designed His heaven to be founded upon a level playing field, where He will meet us as one of ourselves, to draw us out of our defensive suits of armor into the open reality of life. We call it the Incarnation, or as Paul says, a self-emptying on the part of God. A humble God will raise up a humble people. Jesus, who was meek, and yet victorious against all the powers of darkness, inherits the earth. No one else can, but He is inviting us to join Him in that venture.

Christ's peace, Fr. Dan

MASS INTENTIONS:

Sat. 5:30pm for the health and blessings this New Year for the Conrads family.

Sun 9am for all the people of St. Anna's parish family.

Sun 12pm for the soul of Bhulabhai Patel at the request of Shaffer family.

TREASURE STEWARDSHIP:

Offertory: \$ 8,915.50

Hispanic Ministry: \$1,462.00

FAITH FORMATION NEWS

Today we celebrate the **RITE OF ENROLLMENT** with our 10th grade Confirmation candidates at the 12:00 p.m. Mass. Our Confirmation candidates will sign their name in the Book of Enrollment indicating their desire to see the Sacrament of Confirmation in the spring. Please keep the following candidates in your prayers as they journey to the Sacrament of Confirmation:



Thomas Ashley, Patrick Bardy, Clara Bennett, Sarah Bennett, Wesley Breedlove, Sarah Colgan, Jaxon Cowles, Graham Fenn, Samantha Goodwin, Anastatshia Han, Charles Hester, Catherine Lazenby, Hunter McElveen, Luke Miller, Chloe Needham, Alexis Needham, Morgan Parker, Maria Rodriguez, Austin Schorr, Max Smith, Sarah Sykes, Nicholas Warren & Jake Wissing.

ATTENTION PARENTS OF CHILDREN IN 2ND

GRADE. This Tuesday, January 31st is the **FIRST RECONCILIATION PARENT MEETING** for parents of children making First Reconciliation. The meeting will be in the Parish Hall at 7:00 p.m. Please plan to attend this important meeting.



The **FIRST RECONCILIATION RETREAT** for children preparing for the Sacrament of First Reconciliation is next Saturday, Feb. 4th

RECONCILIATION

YOUTH MINISTRY NEWS

YGAB (Youth Group Advisory Board) meeting is this Wed., Feb. 1st at 7:00 p.m. in room 105

The next **WYN** (Wednesday Youth Night) is Wed., Feb. 8th from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. WYN is for all Middle and High School students of St. Anna's.

DO YOU LIKE TO SING OR PLAN A MUSICAL INSTRUMENT? We are looking for singers and musicians for our **YOUTH MASSES** which will be held the 2nd and 4th Sunday of every month at the 12:00 p.m. Mass. If you are interested, please contact Mrs. Deb or Jake Mappes at (dfarabaugh@st-annas.com) or (jmappes24@gmail.com).



WELCOME

We're Glad You're Here



FAMILIES OF FAITH will meet THIS Sunday, Jan. 29th at 5:30 p.m. in the Parish Hall for a potluck dinner and Bible Study. Childcare provided.

Contact Shauna Cantrell at 770-905-6603 or cantrellsh@gmail.com.

Ministry Fair Winners:

Chris Daniels won the cross
Deniz Ballero won the bottle of wine
from Cana.



Join us in the Parish Hall next weekend (Feb 4th & 5th) after each Mass for a reception to welcome Deacon John and his wife to St. Anna's Parish.

We are requesting that each family bring a dessert or finger food to share at these gatherings.

The Fun Fundraiser Ministry presents
A Winter Gala Dinner & Dance
Saturday, Feb. 11, 2017
FROM 6:30 – 11:00 P.M.



(BYOB) \$25.00 PER PERSON
ADULTS ONLY. Ticket Sales after Mass

ADVENT by CANDLELIGHT was a wonderful evening thanks to the inspiration of Angie McElveen and recitation by Angela Yarman! The event was not intended to raise funds but the money given was used to purchase the Crucifix and Risen Christ now at both entrances to our Chapel



Friends of the Heart will meet Monday, Feb. 6th at 6:30 in the Parish Hall...More information to come!

Did you know... There are 20 round tables and 160 chairs in the parish hall. When stacking chairs to move with the chair caddy, stack 8 to the stack. This makes it easier to put them back out (8 chairs/table). Also when putting them against a wall have the backs away from the wall. Again easier to pick up with the chair caddy...**now you know!**



Nursery

Available for Mass

9:00 Mass

12:00 Mass

Jan. 29 - Marianna Tanner
Feb. 4 - NEED SOMEONE!

Jan. 29 - Joyce Stodghill
Feb. 4 - Yaricxa Roman



BBQ pick up is Feb 4th in the Parish Hall from 2-6pm.

2017 Annual Appeal

This year the theme of the Archbishop's Annual Appeal is "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." One way we can show our love to our brothers and sisters in faith is to generously respond to the Archbishop's request for a pledge to the 2017 appeal. While much of the Church's ministry takes place in our parishes, we also come together as a archdiocesan Church to carry out critical services and ministries that have impact beyond any one parish. Your support for the Archbishop's Annual Appeal helps bring spiritual and corporal works of mercy to life in your parish as a part of our overall effort to spread and deepen faith in the Merciful Lord throughout the archdiocese. Through your generous gifts we can continue the work we were called to do as Christians: educate our seminarians, support our retired priests, provide catechists to our children and protect the rights of the unborn. Please be generous in your response. For more information, or to donate online, go to appeal.archatl.com.

Establish your own endowment fund: It takes \$5,000 to establish an endowment fund to benefit your parish or favorite ministry. Once the fund reaches \$25,000, it will be eligible to provide annual distributions to the designated parish or ministry. Others can give to this endowment which will help it grow faster. A named endowment could also be started by the men or women's club at church or the Knights of Columbus. For more information contact Juliet 404-497-9440



THE CATHOLIC FOUNDATION



Choir Rehearsal

Choir Rehearsal for February

ADULT is Wed, Feb. 1st & 15th at 7PM
CHILDRENS is Sun., Feb. 5th at 8:30 AM

New Members are always WELCOME!

Meeting times for the week:

- OLPH - Every Mon. @ 3pm (102/3)
- Men's CRHP - Mon. 1/30 @ 6pm (101)
- Women's CRHP- Mon. 1/30 @ 6:30pm (108)
- Centering Prayer - Every Mon. @ 7pm (Chpl)
- RCIA/RCIC - Every Tues. @ 7:15pm (107/8)
- Parish Bible Study - Every Wed. @ 10am (105)
- K of C Buss. Mtg - Thurs. 2/2 @ 7pm (PH)
- Adoration - Every Fri. @ 6am-12pm (Chpl)



WEEKLY READINGS - Jan. 29 thru Feb. 4
Saturday: Confessions begin at 4 PM

Sunday: Is.8:23-9:3/Ps. 27:1-4,13-14/I Cor. 1:10-13,17/Mt. 4:12-23
Monday: Heb. 11:32-40. / Ps 31(30):20.21.22.23.24. / Mk 5:1-20.
Tuesday: Heb. 12:1-4. / Ps 22(21):26b-27.28.30.31-32. / Mk 5:21-43.
Wednesday: Heb. 12:4-7.11-15. / Ps 103(102):1-2.13-14.17-18a. / Mk 6:1-6.
Thursday: Malachi 3:1-4. / Ps 24(23):7.8.9.10. / Heb. 2:14-18. / Lk 2:22-40.
Friday: Heb. 13:1-8. / Ps 27(26):1.3.5.8b-9abc. / Mk 6:14-29.
Saturday: Heb. 13:15-17.20-21. / Ps 23(22):1-3a.3b-4.5.6. / Mk 6:30-34.