August 26, 2018 — Twenty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time

Welcome: No matter how long you’re planning to be in the neighborhood, please consider this your home. Fill out a registration form found in the vestibule of the church or on the website, or stop by the parish office.

Listening Device: If you are in need of a personal listening device at Mass, please ask the Music Minister or Priest.

Our Church is Open:  
Mon—Fri: 7 a.m.—3:30 p.m.; Sat: 8 a.m.—6 p.m.; Sun: 7 a.m. - 6 p.m. (Note: The Church is closed after Mass on a Federal Holiday)

Fellowship with Coffee and Donuts: Sundays after the 10:30 a.m. Mass. All are welcome.

Bulletin Deadline: Fridays - 8:00 a.m.

St. Peter School: “Founded in 1868, St. Peter School provides children with an education founded on love of God and service to others, characterized by Catholic values and academic excellence.”

422 Third St., SE • (202) 544-1618 • http://www.stpeterschooldc.org/

Celebration of Holy Mass

Weekdays  
Mondays—Fridays: 8:00 a.m. & 12:10 p.m.  
(8:00 a.m. only on a Federal Holiday)  
Saturdays: 9:00 a.m.

Sunday Masses  
Saturdays: 5:00 p.m. Vigil  
Sundays: 8:00 a.m., 10:30 a.m., 5:00 p.m.

Holy Days  
5:00 p.m. Vigil; 8:00 a.m., 12:10 p.m., 7:00 p.m.

Devotions and Sacraments

Devotions — Rosary Shrine of St. Jude  
http://www.rosaryshrineofstjude.org  
Phone: (212) 535-3664  
Rosary: 11:45 a.m. Mondays - Fridays  
Veneration of the relic of St. Jude: Fridays, following the 12:10 p.m. Mass.

Holy Hour (Eucharistic Adoration)  
Thursdays: 4:45 p.m.—5:45 p.m.

The Sacrament of Reconciliation  
Mondays—Fridays: 11:55 a.m.; Saturdays: 4:30 p.m.  
Sundays: Immediately following the 10:30 a.m. Mass

Administration of the Sacraments—  
Please Contact the Parish Office

Baptism: “Parents are obliged to take care that infants are baptized in the first few weeks” (Code of Canon Law, 867§1).  
Matrimony: A minimum of six months preparation is required by the Archdiocese.  
Holy Eucharist at Home: When a fellow parishioner is in the hospital or unable to attend Mass.  
Anointing of the Sick: Those facing serious illness or entering the hospital.

Please note that the first two rows of the center aisle of the church are reserved for individuals with disabilities.  
The entrance for persons with disabilities is on Frontage Road on the south side of the church.

“Like” us on Facebook, St Dominic Church—Washington DC   •   Email listserve signup: office@stdominicchurch.org

St. Dominic Church is a Christ-centered, Roman Catholic, and Dominican parish for the people of Southwest, DC and beyond. Our mission is to preach the Gospel and make disciples, and glorify God through the Eucharist and the other Sacraments, build up the communion of the Church, and serve others through the spiritual and corporal works of mercy.

630 E Street, SW • Washington, D.C., 20024 • (202) 554-7863 • Fax (202) 554-0231  
office@stdominicchurch.org • www.stdominicchurch.org  
2 blocks from L’Enfant Plaza Metro
Dear Parishioners,

My name is Chris Nodes. I’m a member of St. Dominic Cenacle, a group of discipleship within the parish. Because this group has helped me in so many ways, I would like to introduce you to it.

We are a community of people seeking to grow in friendship with Christ and with each other. We meet Tuesday evenings, and it is open to all adults, parishioners and non-parishioners alike. We begin in the church at 7 pm for half hour of Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, a time in which we spend quietly in prayer in the presence of God. Around 7:40 pm, we then go to the parish meeting room for a talk or discussion about a topic relating to our faith. We end with a short prayer and are usually finished around 8:45 pm.

Our talks and discussions often revolve around a theme that runs for several weeks. For example, we are currently going through a series called “The Bible and the Sacraments,” which will run until late September. In this series, we watch a short video on one of the sacraments and explore its scriptural basis. We then have an opportunity for group discussion. Past series have included faith and politics, the Church in other countries, and the Marian doctrines.

In addition to talks and discussions, we have other events too. On the last Tuesday of each month, we have Mass at 7 pm instead of Adoration. Furthermore, we have social events throughout the year. Earlier this summer, one of our members hosted us all for dinner, and on another occasion we had a picnic on the Mall for the July 4th rehearsal concert.

All of these events and activities are rooted in a spiritual vision for the group, a vision that is based on the upper room where Jesus held the Last Supper. In fact, the
Pastoral Corner… Continued

name “Cenacle” refers to that upper room. Jesus would later appear to the disciples in that same room after the Resurrection, and the Holy Spirit would descend upon the apostles there on Pentecost. The upper room, then, is a place where the disciples spent time with Christ, received the Eucharist, prayed, and were filled with the Holy Spirit, so that they could go out to all the world as witnesses to the faith. St. Dominic Cenacle is a community inspired by what God did for the disciples in the upper room, hoping and trusting that He will do the same for us.

We hope that you’ll stop by one of these upcoming Tuesdays so that you can meet us and join us in prayer and discussion. We look forward to seeing you soon!

Yours in Christ,
Chris Nodes

Social Justice

Please leave your donation for the St Vincent de Paul food pantry in front of the pulpit. We appreciate your generosity.

The parish’s next collection of practical items, diapers, wipes, and formula, for the Capitol Hill Pregnancy Center will be the weekend of September 1/2.

We will again partner with the Knights to provide new, good quality children’s coats for low-income families. Each coat costs about $20. You may donate through faithdirect.org or using the collection basket and writing Coats for Kids in the check’s subject line or on the envelope.

Attention Weekday and Weekend Acolytes, Lectors, Ushers, and Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion

Labor Day weekend marks the “end of summer.” We anticipate many Lay Ministers may have travel plans for this week and next. Many weekday and weekend masses will have unexpected vacancies for Lay Ministers. Lectors, Acolytes and EMHC who are remaining in the area this week are asked to volunteer to fill vacancies whenever possible.

Please contact JC Cantrell thru the Parish Office or by e-mail music@stdominicchurch.org if you need assistance or have questions regarding the schedule.

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults

RCIA is for you if you are:

- Not yet baptized
- Baptized and Christian and are interested in becoming Catholic
- Catholic but, for whatever reasons, never received Confirmation and/or Holy Communion.

Join us on September 10th at 7:00pm in the Parish Meeting Room to learn more!
Contact pastor@stdominicchurch.org for more information

Church Maintenance & History

The next monthly cleaning of the church will be Saturday, September 8th, after the 9:00 a.m. Mass. New volunteers are always welcome.

History: The first single window on the right of the altar features St. Dominic as “Lumen Ecclesiae” (“Light of the Church”). The “O Lumen,” a hymn to St. Dominic, is sung nightly in Dominican communities throughout the world. - Courtesy of Mary Moran

Parish Community

The Knight of Columbus are hosting a Spaghetti Supper on Saturday, November 3rd at 6:00 p.m. The suggested donation is $12 per person, $25 for a family. The proceeds will benefit the poor box.

If you would like to have more opportunities to socialize with fellow parishioners, please join the Hospitality Committee. Contact social@stdominicchurch.org for more information.

Save the Date

Heritage Day
Sunday, October 21st
10:30AM Mass

- Bishop Michael Fisher will celebrate Mass for the formal installation of Fr. Hyacinth as Pastor
- Heritage Day Celebration after Mass
We do lawn and garden maintenance, grounds clean-up, and anything that comes up on the 1st & 3rd & 5th Saturdays of the month. Drop-ins welcome! We need HELP to keep St. Dominic’s beautiful. Please email Elysia Branson at ebowserbuddy@aol.com for further information. No Experience Needed!

**For those with Hearing Impediment**

The parish has a number of personal listening system receivers with earbuds for use at the Mass. Please inform a Music Minister (Director or Cantor) if you would like to use one of the receivers, and it will be provided. Please return the receiver to the Music Director after Mass so that it is available for others.

**Leave a Legacy**

Please remember St. Dominic Church in your will and estate planning. Your thoughtfulness will enable the parish to continue its presence, ministry, and outreach in Southwest Washington.
### Sunday, August 26

**Faith and Life Series**

**Week 10 - Belonging Starts Here:**

- Inclusion of People with Disabilities
  - 6:30 p.m.—8:30 p.m. (Parish Meeting Room)
  - *Potluck—Please bring a dish to share*

### Tuesday, August 28

**Cenacle Meeting**

*A weekly group of discipleship for adults.*

- 7:00 p.m. — Mass (Church)
- 7:40 p.m. — “Reconciled to God” The Bible and the Sacraments, Episode 8: Penance
  (Parish Meeting Room)

### Thursday, August 30

**St. Dominic Young Adults**

*For all young adults in their 20’s and 30’s*

- 7:00 p.m. — Adoration with Confessions (Church)
- 7:40 p.m. — Social Night

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### For Sunday Masses on September 1/2:

**Baby Items Drive for Capitol Hill Pregnancy Center.**

We will collect practical items, such as diapers, wipes, and formula.
LETTER OF HIS HOLINESS POPE FRANCIS
TO THE PEOPLE OF GOD

“If one member suffers, all suffer together with it” (1 Cor 12:26). These words of Saint Paul forcefully echo in my heart as I acknowledge once more the suffering endured by many minors due to sexual abuse, the abuse of power and the abuse of conscience perpetrated by a significant number of clerics and consecrated persons. Crimes that inflict deep wounds of pain and powerlessness, primarily among the victims, but also in their family members and in the larger community of believers and nonbelievers alike. Looking back to the past, no effort to beg pardon and to seek to repair the harm done will ever be sufficient. Looking ahead to the future, no effort must be spared to create a culture able to prevent such situations from happening, but also to prevent the possibility of their being covered up and perpetuated. The pain of the victims and their families is also our pain, and so it is urgent that we once more reaffirm our commitment to ensure the protection of minors and of vulnerable adults.

1. If one member suffers…

In recent days, a report was made public which detailed the experiences of at least a thousand survivors, victims of sexual abuse, the abuse of power and of conscience at the hands of priests over a period of approximately seventy years. Even though it can be said that most of these cases belong to the past, nonetheless as time goes on we have come to know the pain of many of the victims. We have realized that these wounds never disappear and that they require us forcefully to condemn these atrocities and join forces in uprooting this culture of death; these wounds never go away. The heart-wrenching pain of these victims, which cries out to heaven, was long ignored, kept quiet or silenced. But their outcry was more powerful than all the measures meant to silence it, or sought even to resolve it by decisions that increased its gravity by falling into complicity. The Lord heard that cry and once again showed us on which side he stands. Mary’s song is not mistaken and continues quietly to echo throughout history. For the Lord remembers the promise he made to our fathers: “he has scattered the proud in their conceit; he has cast down the mighty from their thrones and lifted up the lowly; he has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich he has sent away empty” (Lk 1:51-53). We feel shame when we realize that our style of life has denied, and continues to deny, the words we recite.

With shame and repentance, we acknowledge as an ecclesial community that we were not where we should have been, that we did not act in a timely manner, realizing the magnitude and the gravity of the damage done to so many lives. We showed no care for the little ones; we abandoned them. I make my own the words of the then Cardinal Ratzinger when, during the Way of the Cross composed for Good Friday 2005, he identified with the cry of pain of so many victims and exclaimed: “How much filth there is in the Church, and even among those who, in the priesthood, ought to belong entirely to [Christ]! How much pride, how much self-complacency! Christ’s betrayal by his disciples, their unworthy reception of his body and blood, is certainly the greatest suffering endured by the Redeemer; it pierces his heart. We can only call to him from the depths of our hearts: Kyrie eleison – Lord, save us! (cf. Mt 8:25)” (Ninth Station).

2. … all suffer together with it

The extent and the gravity of all that has happened requires coming to grips with this reality in a comprehensive and communal way. While it is important and necessary on every journey of conversion to acknowledge the truth of what has happened, in itself this is not enough. Today we are challenged as the People of God to take on the pain of our brothers and sisters wounded in their flesh and in their spirit. If, in the past, the response was one of omission, today we want solidarity, in the deepest and most challenging sense, to become our way of forging present and future history. And this in an environment where conflicts, tensions and above all the victims of every type of abuse can encounter an outstretched hand to protect them and rescue them from their pain (cf. Evangelii Gaudium, 228). Such solidarity demands that we in turn condemn whatever endangers the integrity of any person. A solidarity that summons us to fight all forms of corruption, especially spiritual corruption. The latter is “a comfortable and self-satisfied form of blindness. Everything then appears acceptable: deception, slander, egotism and other subtle forms of self-centeredness, for ‘even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light’ (2 Cor 11:14)” (Gaudete et Exsultate, 165).

Saint Paul’s exhortation to suffer with those who suffer is the best antidote against all our attempts to repeat the words of Cain: “Am I my brother’s keeper?” (Gen 4:9).

I am conscious of the effort and work being carried out in various parts of the world to come up with the necessary means to ensure the safety and protection of the integrity of children and of vulnerable adults, as well as implementing zero tolerance and ways of making all those who perpetrate or cover up these crimes accountable. We have delayed in applying these actions and sanctions that are so necessary, yet I am confident that they will help to guarantee a greater culture of care in the present and future.

Together with those efforts, every one of the baptized should feel involved in the ecclesial and social change that we so greatly need. This change calls for a personal and communal conversion that makes us see things as the Lord does. For as Saint John
Paul II liked to say: “If we have truly started out anew from the contemplation of Christ, we must learn to see him especially in the faces of those with whom he wished to be identified” (Novo Millennio Ineunte, 49). To see things as the Lord does, to be where the Lord wants us to be, to experience a conversion of heart in his presence. To do so, prayer and penance will help. I invite the entire holy faithful People of God to a penitential exercise of prayer and fasting, following the Lord’s command.[1] This can awaken our conscience and arouse our solidarity and commitment to a culture of care that says “never again” to every form of abuse.

It is impossible to think of a conversion of our activity as a Church that does not include the active participation of all the members of God's People. Indeed, whenever we have tried to replace, or silence, or ignore, or reduce the People of God to small elites, we end up creating communities, projects, theological approaches, spiritualities and structures without roots, without memory, without faces, without bodies and ultimately, without lives.[2] This is clearly seen in a peculiar way of understanding the Church's authority, one common in many communities where sexual abuse and the abuse of power and conscience have occurred. Such is the case with clericalism, an approach that “not only nullifies the character of Christians, but also tends to diminish and undervalue the baptismal grace that the Holy Spirit has placed in the heart of our people”. [3] Clericalism, whether fostered by priests themselves or by lay persons, leads to an excision in the ecclesial body that supports and helps to perpetuate many of the evils that we are condemning today. To say “no” to abuse is to say an emphatic “no” to all forms of clericalism.

It is always helpful to remember that “in salvation history, the Lord saved one people. We are never completely ourselves unless we belong to a people. That is why no one is saved alone, as an isolated individual. Rather, God draws us to himself, taking into account the complex fabric of interpersonal relationships present in the human community. God wanted to enter into the life and history of a people” (Gaudete et Exsultate, 6). Consequently, the only way that we have to respond to this evil that has darkened so many lives is to experience it as a task regarding all of us as the People of God. This awareness of being part of a people and a shared history will enable us to acknowledge our past sins and mistakes with a penitential openness that can allow us to be renewed from within. Without the active participation of all the Church's members, everything being done to uproot the culture of abuse in our communities will not be successful in generating the necessary dynamics for sound and realistic change. The penitential dimension of fasting and prayer will help us as God’s People to come before the Lord and our wounded brothers and sisters as sinners imploring forgiveness and the grace of shame and conversion. In this way, we will come up with actions that can generate resources attuned to the Gospel. For “whenever we make the effort to return to the source and to recover the original freshness of the Gospel, new avenues arise, new paths of creativity open up, with different forms of expression, more eloquent signs and words with new meaning for today’s world” (Evangelii Gaudium, 11).

It is essential that we, as a Church, be able to acknowledge and condemn, with sorrow and shame, the atrocities perpetuated by consecrated persons, clerics, and all those entrusted with the mission of watching over and caring for those most vulnerable. Let us beg forgiveness for our own sins and the sins of others. An awareness of sin helps us to acknowledge the errors, the crimes and the wounds caused in the past and allows us, in the present, to be more open and committed along a journey of renewed conversion.

Likewise, penance and prayer will help us to open our eyes and our hearts to other people’s sufferings and to overcome the thirst for power and possessions that are so often the root of those evils. May fasting and prayer open our ears to the hushed pain felt by children, young people and the disabled. A fasting that can make us hunger and thirst for justice and impel us to walk in the truth, supporting all the judicial measures that may be necessary. A fasting that shakes us up and leads us to be committed in truth and charity with all men and women of good will, and with society in general, to combatting all forms of the abuse of power, sexual abuse and the abuse of conscience.

In this way, we can show clearly our calling to be “a sign and instrument of communion with God and of the unity of the entire human race” (Lumen Gentium, 1).

“If one member suffers, all suffer together with it”, said Saint Paul. By an attitude of prayer and penance, we will become attuned as individuals and as a community to this exhortation, so that we may grow in the gift of compassion, in justice, prevention and reparation. Mary chose to stand at the foot of her Son’s cross. She did so unhesitatingly, standing firmly by Jesus’ side. In this way, she reveals the way she lived her entire life. When we experience the desolation caused by these ecclesial wounds, we will do well, with Mary, “to insist more upon prayer”, seeking to grow all the more in love and fidelity to the Church (SAINT IGNATIUS OF LOYOLA, Spiritual Exercises, 319). She, the first of the disciples, teaches all of us as disciples how we are to halt before the sufferings of the innocent, without excuses or cowardice. To look to Mary is to discover the model of a true follower of Christ.

May the Holy Spirit grant us the grace of conversion and the interior anointing needed to express before these crimes of abuse our compunction and our resolve courageously to combat them.

Vatican City, 20 August 2018

FRANCIS