

Our Lady of Lourdes Monthly Calendar

JANUARY 2019 ~ HAPPY NEW YEAR!

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
6 Epiphany Sunday Nursery 9:30A Women's Council 10A S. School & Teen Min 10:30A Parenting Ministry 10:30A RCIA 11:30A Social Action 11:30A St. Vincent de Paul 12P Dancers Rehearsal 1:30P	7 Ulreyva 7:00P Zumba Class 7:15P	1 New Year's Day No Masses Church Office Closed	2 Church Office Closed	3 Church Office Re-Opens at 9A		5 Lector Prep 10:30A AG Youth Dance Class 12P Rosary 4:30P 5:00PM Eucharist
13 Baptism of the Lord Live Stream 10A Mass Confirmation Information Meeting 9:30A Nursery 9:30A S. School & Teen Min 10:30A Parenting Ministry 10:30A KPCLA Meeting 12P Jr. Daughters/R Kinglets Meeting 12P Dancers Rehearsal 1:30P MLK Jr. Arch. of Atlanta Service & Sips 2P	14 Stephen Ministry 6:30P Pastoral Council 6:30P Zumba Class 7:15P	15 Lourdes Lunch 11:30A Stephen Minister Training 6P Zumba Class 6:15P Dave Ramsey Financial Literacy Course 6:30P	16 Zumba Class 6:15P <i>Bible Study 7:00P</i> Starbucks 650 Ponce De Leon Ave Atlanta GA. 30308 AGLD Rehearsal 7:15P	17 Lourdes Lunch 11:30A Choir Rehearsal 7:00P AGLD Rehearsal 7P Zumba Class 7:15P	18	19 AG Youth Dance Class 12P MLK Jr. Mass 1PM ASBS Meeting 3P Rosary 4:30P 5:00PM Eucharist
20 No Sunday School 10:30A RCIA 11:30A Hait Ministry 11:30A St. Vincent de Paul 12P Dancers Rehearsal 1:30P MLK Jr. Youth Celebration 3P	21 ML. King, Jr. Day Church Office Closed	22 Lourdes Lunch 11:30A Stephen Minister Training 6P Zumba Class 6:15P Dave Ramsey Financial Literacy Course 6:30P	23 Zumba Class 6:15P <i>Bible Study 7:00P</i> Starbucks 650 Ponce De Leon Ave Atlanta GA. 30308 AGLD Rehearsal 7:15P	24 Lourdes Lunch 11:30A Choir Rehearsal 7:00P Zumba Class 7:15P	25	26 Eucharistic Ministers Workshop 9:30A Ereicim 11A AG Youth Dance Class 12P Rosary 4:30P 5:00PM Eucharist Beignets
27 Beignets Live Stream 10A Mass Nursery 9:30A Confirmation Class 9:15A S. School & Teen Min 10:30A Parenting Ministry 10:30A Health Ministry Meeting 11:30A Dancers Rehearsal 1:30P Lay Dominicans 2P Life Issues 7P (Conference Call)	28 Zumba Class 7:15P Taizé Prayer 8P	29 Lourdes Lunch 11:30A Stephen Minister Training 6P Zumba Class 6:15P Dave Ramsey Financial Literacy Course 6:30P	30 Zumba Class 6:15P <i>Bible Study 7:00P</i> Starbucks 650 Ponce De Leon Ave Atlanta GA. 30308 AGLD Rehearsal 7:15P	31 Lourdes Lunch 11:30A Choir Rehearsal 7:00P Zumba Class 7:15P		

Save the Date

Sunday, January 13 ~ Confirmation Information Meeting for Parents and Teens ~ 9:30A
Sunday, January 13 ~ Young Adult "Service and Sips" Brunch and Service Opportunity ~ 2P
Saturday, January 19 ~ MLK Jr. Mass ~ The Shrine of the Immaculate Conception ~ 1P
Sunday, January 20 ~ Youth Celebration ~ St. Peter Claver Regional Catholic School ~ 3P
Saturday, January 26 ~ Eucharistic Minister Training Workshop ~ 9:30A

Life

**Our Lady of Lourdes
Life Issues Committee**



Notes

January 2019

Patients waiting for urgent care treatment in Canadian hospitals may see on the display of available medical options the advertisement above: "Medical Assistance in Dying (MAiD) is a medical service in Canada, whereby physicians and nurse practitioners help eligible patients fulfill their wish to end their suffering."

Patient-rights advocate Wesley Smith sounds a warning: "Realize, these patients may be afraid. They may be in pain. They may be depressed. And what one act does the hospital from which they seek succor push? Killing." What is happening in Canada, Smith says, is that medically-assisted suicide is becoming Canada's "treatment" of choice for patients with incurable conditions. Meanwhile, as he notes, "only 15 percent of dying Canadians have access to quality palliative care in their last year of life."

SUFFERING MAKES US UNCOMFORTABLE

Maura Savage is a clinical social worker who helped form the Palliative Care program at Children's Healthcare of Atlanta. In her Consistent Ethic of Life lecture for Emory's Aquinas Center last month, she addressed a mindset often found among medical professionals and caregivers: "We want to fix. Suffering makes us uncomfortable."

Palliative care, as defined by the World Health Organization, instead "affirms life and regards dying as a normal process" and therefore "intends neither to hasten nor postpone death." Caregivers tending the terminally ill, says Savage, not only try to relieve but to "enter into their suffering," effectively saying, "I recognize your pain because I see it in myself." For that reason, palliative caregiving includes not only medical workers but families, clergy, and friends of the dying. Whether they remain hospitalized or seek hospice/home care, people nearing death can then experience what Fr. Henri Nouwen called the "hope" that "begins when we do not run away."

LET EACH OF US GIVE LOVE

Fortunately, the United States has not yet embraced euthanasia as enthusiastically as Canada has. But all of us, including our medical professionals, could benefit from the advice Pope Francis has offered about how to care for loved ones facing death:

Let each of us give love in his or her own way—as a father, a mother, a son, a daughter, a brother or sister, a doctor or a nurse. But give it! And even if we know that we cannot always guarantee healing or a cure, we can and must always care for the living, without ourselves shortening their life, but also without futilely resisting their death. This approach is reflected in palliative care, which is proving most important in our culture, as it opposes what makes death most terrifying and unwelcome—pain and loneliness.

The full message of Pope Francis to the World Medical Association is available here:

<https://www.wma.net/wp-content/uploads/2017/05/Message-Pope-Francis-Nov2017.pdf>

Holidays Got You Down?

Sometimes these seasons of sadness are connected to specific events or life crises. Here at Lourdes our trained Stephen Ministers are prepared to help you experience God during these times when you are wondering: **Is God even there?**

God's love is always there, but sometimes it can be really hard to feel it, especially when you are going through a crisis.

A Stephen Minister can help. Stephen Ministers are members of our congregation who listen, care, encourage, and provide emotional and spiritual support to people going through a difficult time.

A Stephen Minister is Jesus' hands and feet, just being there and caring for you.

Stephen Ministers express God's love in a tangible way that care receivers can feel.

Stephen Ministers help those that they care for experience God during any crisis.

Don't suffer in silence, Stephen Ministers are standing by ready to 'journey' with you.

To learn how you can receive a Stephen Minister's confidential care, contact the Church office 404-522-6776.

People often ask, “What exactly is a Stephen Minister?” One way to put it is that Stephen Ministers are the *After People*.

Stephen Ministers are there:

... *after* the phone call you hoped you’d never get.

... *after* the funeral, when everyone has left and the emotions you’ve held at bay come crashing in on you.

... *after* the relationship falls apart and the bottom falls out of your life.

... *after* the doctor says, “I’m sorry, but there’s nothing more we can do.”

... *after* the nursing home director shakes your hand and says, “Welcome to your new home.”

... *after* the last child honks the horn, waves, and drives away—and the house suddenly seems empty.

... *after* the gavel comes down, the handcuffs go on, and your loved one is led away.

... *after* the baby arrives, demanding more of you than you ever dreamed possible.

... *after* you find a pink slip with your final paycheck.

... *after* your family and friends have heard your story one too many times, but you still need to talk it out.

Stephen Ministers are the After People. They are ready to come alongside you—or your friends, neighbors, coworkers, or relatives—and provide comfort and support for as long *after* as needed.

www.stephenministries.org