

Our Lady of Lourdes Monthly Calendar

DECEMBER 2014

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 Zumba 7:30PM	2 Lourdes Lunch 11:30A Zumba Class 6P Lector Prep 7P	3 Zumba Class 6:30P Bible Study 7:00P AGLD Rehearsal 7P	4 Lourdes Lunch 11:30A Zumba Class 6:30P JustFaith 7:50P Choir Rehearsal 7P	5 YAG Meeting 7:30P	6 Lector Prep 10:30A Dance by Kenya 1:30P Rosary 4:30PM 5:00PM Eucharist Father/Daughter Dance 7P
7 2 nd Sunday of Advent Sunday School 8:45A Teen Ministry 10:15A Women's Council 9:30A Simon & Call 12N	8 Feast of Immaculate Conception Stand Up for Kids 4P Zumba 7:30PM	9 Lourdes Lunch 11:30A Zumba Class 6P Baptismal Prep 7P	10 Zumba Class 6:30P Bible Study 7:00P AGLD Rehearsal 7P	11 Lourdes Lunch 11:30A Zumba Class 6:30P Choir Rehearsal 7P	12 YAG Meeting 7:30P	13 Eracism 11A Rosary 4:30PM 5:00PM Eucharist Lourdes Advent Party
14 3 rd Sunday of Advent Sunday School 8:45A Teen Ministry 10:15A St. Vincent De Paul 11:45A KPCLA Meeting 1:30P Jr. Division Meeting 1:30P	15 Men's Ministry 7P Zumba 7:30PM	16 Lourdes Lunch 11:30A Zumba Class 6P	17 Zumba Class 6:30P Bible Study 7:00P AGLD Rehearsal 7P	18 Lourdes Lunch 11:30A Zumba Class 6:30P Choir Rehearsal 7P JustFaith 7:30P	19 1 st Day of Winter YAG Meeting 7:30P Men's Ministry Movie Night for Edgewood 7:30P	20 Pastoral Care Meeting 10A Dance by Kenya 1:30P Advent Penance 2:00PM Rosary 4:30PM 5:00PM Eucharist
21 4 th Sunday of Advent Sunday School 8:45A Teen Ministry 10:15A Health Ministry 11:30A Haiti Committee 12N Lay Dominicans 2P	22 Zumba 7:30PM Taize Prayer Group 8:00PM	23 Office Closes 1:00PM	24 Christmas Eve Church Office Closed 4PM - Family Mass 7PM - Children's Mass 12Midnight Mass @ Ebenezer Sanctuary Caroling starts at 11:30P	25 Christmas Day 10:00AM Eucharist Church Office Closed	26 Church Office Closed	27 Rosary 4:30PM 5:00PM Eucharist
28 No Sunday School The Feast of the Holy Family, Jesus, Mary & Joseph	29 Church Office Closed	30 Church Office Closed	31 New Years Eve Church Office Closed Watchnight 11:00PM	1 January 2015 Church Office Closed	2 January 2015 Church Office Re-Opens at 9A	

The Feast of the Immaculate Conception Mass will be celebrated with the Shrine of the Immaculate Conception on Monday, December 8, 2014 at 7:00PM; located at 48 M.L. King, Jr. Drive
Sts. Peter and Paul and Our Lady of Lourdes Advent Penance Service ~ Saturday, December 20th ~ 2:00PM

AN UNTIMELY DEATH

On November 1st, 29-year-old Brittany Maynard took her own life. Months earlier, the vivacious newlywed had learned her recurrent headaches and seizures were caused by terminal and inoperable brain cancer. Fearing to have “my autonomy taken away from me by my disease,” she and her family moved from California to Oregon, one of five states where physician-assisted suicide is legal. Doctors there prescribed the lethal drugs she ingested before dying in the company of her husband and other loved ones.

SPARKING A NATIONAL DEBATE

Inspired by the work of *Compassion and Choices* (formerly the Hemlock Society), Brittany Maynard became a spokesperson for the advocacy group’s “death-with-dignity” campaign to legalize euthanasia nationwide. Her heart-wrenching video went viral on YouTube, and she made the cover of *People* magazine. Her decision to end her life as announced, after some public misgivings, was hailed in the media as exemplary.

Still, as Gallup pollsters noted, Americans are reluctant to encourage the terminally ill to hasten their deaths. Maggie Karner, who also suffers from debilitating brain cancer, said of Maynard’s popular video: “It’s almost like you’ve stepped out on a ledge and you’re ready to jump. But when that happens in real life, we talk to that person and we say NO, NO, don’t jump!” If we did not, she asks, “What would that say about us as a society?”

HUMAN DIGNITY IN THE FACE OF DEATH

The dignity of every person is the bedrock of Catholic morality, but the term is not well understood. *New York* magazine writer Lisa Miller points out that “in the secular West, *dignity* has come to mean a kind of existential modesty, a wish not to be seen at one’s worst, at a moment when one might not have the wherewithal to retrieve an appropriate fig leaf for the indecent business that is death.” The phrase “death with dignity,” echoes *SF Chronicle* columnist Debra Saunders, “suggests that there is something undignified about holding onto life” and “that sick people should prefer to die than endure seizures or loss of motor control.” Instead, she writes, people facing death, need “friends and family who make them feel wanted, not undignified.”

THE MIRACLE OF COMPASSION

Philip Johnson, a seminarian from Raleigh NC, has experienced “six years of constant turmoil, seizures, and headaches” since he was diagnosed with brain cancer. He is terrified he “will gradually lose control of my bodily functions at a young age, from paralysis to incontinence,” and he knows “it is very likely that my mental faculties will also disappear.” But thanks to the compassion of family and friends who “love me for who I am, not just for personality traits that will slowly slip away,” Johnson has “learned that the suffering and heartache that is part of the human condition does not have to be wasted and cut short out of fear or seeking control in a seemingly uncontrollable situation.” This, he is convinced, is “the most important miracle God intends for me to experience.” It is a miracle he is committed to sharing until God calls him home.

Read Philip Johnson’s reflections at <http://www.dioceseofraleigh.org/content/raleigh-seminarian-terminal-brain-cancer-responds-brittany-maynard>