



MARTYRS' SHRINE

Weekly Church Bulletin | August 3rd 2019 | 18th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

MOVIES AS SACRAMENTS - by Fr. George Vallocheril, SJ

Psychologist William James in his book 'Varieties of Religious Experience' speaks about 'moments of grace' in life. For example, he speaks about people who experienced God in a special way while hiking, skiing, driving, or while standing on a hillside, a river side or sea shores, or while reading a book, or looking at a movie etc. He calls it 'moments of grace' and says that all these people experienced a sudden stir or an upsurge in their souls and sensed a powerful presence within their heart that changed the rest of their lives in a mysterious way.

On Wednesday, August 7 we are starting our 'Watch and pray' -movie retreat program. It is envisaged as a special opportunity to watch a few specially selected movies in order to seek God in movies and to pray and reflect on them. We are familiar with 'Film Festivals', 'Film Appreciation' or 'Film Study' programs etc. But 'Film Retreat' or 'Retreat with Movies' is an unfamiliar concept and idea. As we get ready with this special spiritual renewal and awakening program let us ask these questions: How do we 'read' films from a faith perspective and how do we 'decipher' spiritual meaning and values in films? Do the movies we consume on a regular basis speak about god and manifest god's goodness and grace? Do they tell us stories of God and provide occasions to teach and learn about God?

The proposed 'Watch and Pray' Retreat is a special time to relax, refresh, reflect and renew. It is certainly will be a time of fun and entertainment, but at the same time can be a time of silence, solitude, intimacy, insight and wisdom. Be assured that it is going to be a privileged time for God awareness and spiritual awakening for those who seek and search.

Created things, especially art and media, can either lead us to god or lead us away from god. As we know, we come to know god not only through organized religion, church and sacraments. Art, media and other elements of pop culture, nature and the world around us also can be channels of god's grace and goodness. However, human beings are the greatest and finest sacraments of God. Therefore, stories of human joys and sorrows, pain and suffering, hopes and aspirations, sin and redemption, love and war and human fun and foibles, human worries and anxieties and conflicts and struggles also can be vehicles of spiritual experiences. They too can be sacramental provided we know how to look at them from a spiritual perspective. But we need to learn the skills to decipher god's goodness and grace in and through movies and other forms of media communications. 'Watch and pray' is an attempt towards this.

In your watching of the movies of the 'Retreat' please look and decipher the following:

1. Look for Implied themes and messages, symbolic images and metaphors of god.
2. Look for 'God characters': Characters that are alluring, kind, compassionate, gentle and noble, pointing to something beyond and taking us to a higher and divine realm of life.
3. Look for signs and moments of grace and beauty in shots, scenes, sequences, visuals, dialogue, sound, music, settings, story and plot.
4. Look for redemptive and saving aspects and elements in the film.

Ask the following questions:

- Does this movie as whole or in parts elevate you to a higher, finer and nobler level of thinking, feeling and being?
- Does the movie point towards something spiritual, supernatural, divine? What does it say about God: love, truth, goodness and beauty?
- Consider the theme or themes in the film. How is it treated? What does it say about the whole question of good and evil, suffering and pain, sin and redemption, love and relationship? About human values of freedom, fairness, equality, friendship, fraternity, justice and injustice. Who and what wins in the movie ultimately?
- Finally, what touched you most in the film and why? What do you take home from the movie? How will you apply the spirit, the feel, the themes and the values of the film to your day-to-day life?



LE SANCTUAIRE DES MARTYRS

Bulletin hebdomadaire | 3 août, 2019 | 18e dimanche du temps ordinaire

TIAWENK FUNDRAISING DINNER & AUCTION

Our 6th annual Tiawenk fundraising dinner & auction will be held at the Quality Inn and Conference Centre in Midland, on **Saturday, September 28th** at 5:00 PM. Tickets are available at the Pastoral and Administrative Office or online for \$95.00. The ticket purchaser is eligible for a \$45.00 tax receipt per ticket.

This year's Tiawenk proceeds will be directed towards the Fire Suppression System.

WATCH & PRAY - RETREAT WITH MOVIES

Join Fr. George Vallocheril, SJ for a retreat with movies where you will be invited to learn to use movies for prayer and spiritual nourishment.

The retreat will be held every Wednesday evening in August starting at 6:00 PM in the St. Ignatius Chapel and will include a brief introduction to the film with reflection points, followed by the screening, and group discussion. Tickets are \$10.00 and include all evenings. Tickets and info: www.martyrs-shrine.com/wap

TOONIE CHALLENGE

The Church of St. Joseph was not constructed for year-round use. For that reason, the Church was never insulated, and is not heated. A specialized dry-air fire suppression system is required. Our system is in need of an update including replacing its pipes that are at the end of their life. Please support this project through our toonie challenge. If every pilgrim who visited Martyrs' Shrine gave a toonie, we would reach our fundraising goal. Yellow envelopes are available at the rear of the Church for anyone who would like their gift recorded and included on their annual donations receipt for income tax purposes.

ONLINE GIFT SHOP HAS LAUNCHED!

Martyrs' Shrine has been working to create an online store for the purchase of religious goods sold in our Gift Shop. We hope to make religious gifts more accessible to those who can't journey to our site, and more convenient for those who can.

Browse our online shop at www.martyrs-shrine.com/giftshop.
Your feedback is always appreciated!

Visit our Website:
www.martyrs-shrine.com

MASS INTENTIONS †

3-SAT

- 9:00 Mr. & Mrs. Lastimoso
- 10:30 Family Campoli
- 12:00 Meudouca Family - For Health
- 7:30 Martyrs' Shrine Association

4-SUN

- 9:00 Mireille Butler - for a family
- 10:30 Jason Correia - birthday
- 12:00 Alfredo Cacalda Sr. & Family
- 7:30 Editha Lassakova

5-MON

- 9:00 Francisca and Leo Emmanuel+
- 10:30 Deceased members of Kerrigan and Stevenson families
- 12:00 Antoni Bednarowski + (10th death anniversary)
- 7:30 Ustinamma Jesuthasan - 75th Birthday

6-TUE

- 9:00 Iah Assata Daniel-Campbell - Birthday and Thanksgiving
- 10:30 Gasper, Emily D' Souza +
- 12:00 Phil Austin from Bob & Corinne Green
- 7:30 Ted Mitchell

7-WED

- 9:00 Cosimo Gabriele +
- 10:30 Anthony McLoughlin
- 12:00 Martyrs' Shrine Association
- 7:30 Anne & James Krauskopf

8-THU

- 9:00 Aron and Kidron Xavier
- 10:30 Cosimo Gabriele +
- 12:00 Hugh Mc Cormack +
- 7:30 Martyrs' Shrine Association

9-FRI

- 9:00 John Gallant - Intention for employment opportunities
- 10:30 Justin and family
- 12:00 Vinorth Sivakannan
- 7:30 Mary Margaret Badali +