



## Fr. Matt's Musings

### March 18, 2018

#### *Fried Fish*

In September of 2016, I had a number of meetings with parishioners who wanted to let me know about different areas of parish life. I learned about various clubs and organizations and how they helped OLG and the community beyond. After one of these meetings (about the House Basketball League), one of our parishioners asked a favor. He and a group of his OLG friends all grew up in Pennsylvania and had Lenten Fish Fries during the Fridays of Lent. He asked about starting one here and promised it would be big. He predicted between four and five hundred people a night. I said great and thank you for doing it, but to myself, I said, "Five hundred Northern Virginians for a Friday night Fish Fry?" I was skeptical. Last year we had over four hundred for each one and reached five hundred at least once.

This year, the goal was between six and eight hundred. We reached eight hundred this past Friday. Fish Fry Madness! Our religious tradition asks us to expect the unexpected. God's only Son comes into our world as one of us, to demonstrate in flesh and blood the Divine Madness of a God who is irrevocably in love with each of us. We are closer and closer to our Holy Week celebrations of the Paschal Mystery: Jesus's suffering, death and resurrection. It is our victory over the power of sin and death, and it is all accomplished through love. We celebrate Divine Madness which surely surpasses March Madness in importance for us who believe.

For those of you who filled out your brackets, Virginia's first round loss and Notre Dame's St. Patrick's Day loss are examples of March Madness, but how do our lives imitate Divine Madness in our choice to follow the self-giving and sacrificial love of Christ?

Choose Loving Madness!

Live Jesus!

*Fr. Matt*

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