

BLD WASHINGTON



# BUKÁS-LOÓB SA DIYÓS COVENANT COMMUNITY

SERVING THE WASHINGTON, D.C. AREA

## Counsels

### **RELIGION OF THE HEART**

**Theme:** Jesus leads us to eternal life when we honor Him with our hearts and act on His word.

**Word:** Dt 4: 1-2, 6-8; Ps 15: 2-5; Jas 1: 17-18, 21b-22, 27; Mk 7: 1-8, 14-15, 21-23

**Order:** “Be doers of the Word and not hearers only”. (Jas 1:22)

*(BLD Global Community reflection for August 2009)*

**REFLECTION:** Adherence to His laws and faithful compliance thereof are what our Lord wants us to do in our readings. In the first reading from the book of Deuteronomy, Moses enjoins his people to hear the statute of God and observe them carefully, without adding to or subtracting from it. In Psalm 15, David proclaims that “one *who does justice will live in the presence of the Lord.*” In this passage, in order to be considered a person who “*does justice and walks blamelessly,*” one must be honest or truthful and must speak ill of no one. He should not harm or shame anyone and he must honor those who fear the Lord. He carries a pure heart that seeks out the good of others. It goes without saying that to obey God’s statutes is to walk blamelessly and do justice. The second reading directs us to “*humbly welcome the word,*” and “*be doers*

*of the word and not hearers only.*” It declares that if we are mere hearers of the word, we are just deluding or deceiving ourselves. This reading also speaks of pure and undefiled religion - one that cares for “*orphans and widows in their affliction.*” Otherwise stated, it is a religion of the heart, one that espouses care, compassion and love for all our afflicted brothers and sisters. It is not divisive, not selfish nor selective. It is a religion that bonds everyone in Christ’s love. In the Gospel, Jesus lashes out harsh words to the Pharisees who accuse His disciples of infringing upon an old tradition of hand-washing before meals. He calls these Pharisees hypocrites. The Pharisees became pre-occupied with so many rituals to make themselves look pure or holy but Jesus knew that their hearts remained vile. Bible scholars state that the Pharisees created 650 or so *particularizations* or additions to the 10 commandments. These included self purification rituals, cleansing of jugs, cups, kettles and even beds. The Pharisees treated these traditions and precepts as doctrines and they resented anyone who did not follow them. The Pharisees focused more on these rituals than on the real reasons for doing them. They were blinded from God’s basic tenet for them to love one another. Jesus told them that they were worshipping God in vain. He reminded them of Isaiah’s prophesy for them: “*This people honors me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me; in vain do they worship me, teaching as doctrines human precepts.*” (Mk 7:6-7). Because the Pharisees were so engrossed

with self purification ceremonies, Jesus expounded to them that what really defiles or makes one impure, is the evil thought that dwells inside one's heart. He said: ***“From within people, from their hearts come evil thoughts, unchastity, theft, murder, adultery, greed, malice, deceit, licentiousness, envy, blasphemy, arrogance, folly.”*** (Mk 7:20). If we allow any of these evil thoughts to remain in our hearts, then no matter how many pious acts and purification rituals we may do, we will remain defiled, impure and unworthy to worship God. We thus need to empty our hearts of all evil thoughts and fill it with Christ's love. Only then can we truly worship the Lord.

***“Be doers of the word, not hearers only.”*** (Jas1:22). We hear God's word whenever we attend mass or read the Bible. Some of us have read our Bibles from cover to cover. Some of us have Bibles full of marginal annotations and markings with multi-colored highlights indicating how much we studied the scriptures. Some of us even teach the Bible. This is all commendable and impressive but, if we do not follow God's commandments, then we are a failure in God's eyes. The greatest commandment of God is the commandment to love. Our vast knowledge of God's word is futile if we are unable to love our brothers and sisters. More often than not, this fundamental command can be quite challenging when we deal with persons who seem **unlovable**. This may happen in any place where we have someone who constantly ruins our day, or someone who caused us grief, anger or frustration. **True Christian love means loving the unlovable and forgiving the unforgivable.** Jesus forgave everyone who caused all His suffering in Calvary. Jesus loves us despite all our sins. As followers of Jesus, we are to emulate Him and aspire to have a forgiving and loving heart like His.

This is a tall order. But this is the true test of our discipleship.

***DIRECTIONS:***

1. Read and understand our BLD Statutes and Policies.
2. Encourage our members to support all our community's mission endeavors.

**God's Promise for the Week**

***“Whoever walks blamelessly and does justice ...shall never be disturbed.”*** (Ps 15:2, 5b)

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**August 29 - Martyrdom of St. John the Baptist**

St. John's fearless condemnation of Herod's unlawful marriage incurred the hatred of the king's bride, Herodias. She had him imprisoned and, finally, killed. St. John the Baptist teaches us to be strong in carrying out the mission God has given us.



## Readings for the Beheading of Saint John the Baptist:

### Collect

God our Father, You called John the Baptist to be the herald of Your Son's birth and death. As he gave his life in witness to truth and justice, so may we strive to profess our faith in Your gospel.

Grant this through our Lord Jesus Christ, Your Son, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. +Amen.

### First Reading: Jeremiah 1:17-19

But you, gird up your loins; arise, and say to them everything that I command you. Do not be dismayed by them, lest I dismay you before them. And I, behold, I make you this day a fortified city, an iron pillar, and bronze walls, against the whole land, against the kings of Judah, its princes, its priests, and the people of the land. They will fight against you; but they shall not prevail against you, for I am with you, says the Lord, to deliver you."

### Gospel Reading: Mark 6:17-29

For Herod had sent and seized John, and bound him in prison for the sake of Herodias, his brother Philip's wife; because he had married her. For John said to Herod, "It is not lawful for you to have your brother's wife." And Herodias had a grudge against him, and wanted to kill him. But she could not, for Herod feared John, knowing that he was a righteous and holy man, and kept him safe. When he heard him, he was much perplexed; and yet he heard him gladly.

But an opportunity came when Herod on his birthday gave a banquet for his courtiers and officers and the leading men of Galilee. For when Herodias' daughter came in and danced, she pleased Herod and his guests;

and the king said to the girl, "Ask me for whatever you wish, and I will grant it." And he vowed to her, "Whatever you ask me, I will give you, even half of my kingdom." And she went out, and said to her mother, "What shall I ask?" And she said, "The head of John the baptizer." And she came in immediately with haste to the king, and asked, saying, "I want you to give me at once the head of John the Baptist on a platter." And the king was exceedingly sorry; but because of his oaths and his guests he did not want to break his word to her. And immediately the king sent a soldier of the guard and gave orders to bring his head. He went and beheaded him in the prison, and brought his head on a platter, and gave it to the girl; and the girl gave it to her mother. When his disciples heard of it, they came and took his body, and laid it in a tomb.

**Comment:** Each of us has a calling to which we must listen. No one will ever repeat the mission of John, and yet all of us are called to that very mission. It is the role of the Christian to witness to Jesus. Whatever our position in this world, we are called to be disciples of Christ. By our words and deeds others should realize that we live in the joy of knowing that Jesus is Lord. We do not have to depend upon our own limited resources, but can draw strength from the vastness of Christ's saving grace.

Source:<http://www.wf-f.org/StJohnBaptist.html>

### Love Offering

Aug. 07, 2009 \$1,407.00

Aug. 14, 2009 \$ 890.00

Aug. 21, 2009 \$1,045.25

Aug. 28, 2009 \$ 705.11

*Thank you for your generosity!*

**September Calendar**

- Sept. 04 Eucharistic Celebration  
11 Praise & Worship  
Romance w/o Regret  
Excellence in Worship  
18 Praise & Worship  
18-20 Singles Encounter No. 4  
20 Concert by Carlos Ibay  
25 Praise & Worship  
26 Growth in Prayer  
CMP 1 Part 3  
Teaching of Christ  
27 Healing and Deliverance

Please check our website  
[www.bldwashington.com](http://www.bldwashington.com)  
for 2009 Schedule of Events.

**Community Calendar**

- Sept. 18-20, 2009  
- Singles Encounter No.4  
Hilton Garden Inn  
Dulles - North  
22400 Flagstaff Plaza  
Ashburn, Virginia 20148  
Sept. 20, 2009  
- Joyous Celebration of Faith, Hope  
and Love Concert by Carlos Ibay  
4PM, OLV Church  
Nov. 13-15, 2009  
- Marriage Encounter No. 10  
Dulles Hilton, Dulles, Virginia

**REMINDER**

Please sign in and wear your BLD IDs  
during Praise & Worship and Community  
Functions.

**Teaching Schedule**

- Sept. 11, 2009  
Romance w/o Regret (Make-up)  
Youth/John 6  
8:00 - 10:30 PM  
OLV  
- Excellence in Worship  
Youth  
8:00 - 10:00 PM  
OLV  
Sept. 26, 2009  
- Growth in Prayer  
LSS#9  
9:00 AM – 12:00 noon  
Cardinal McCarrick Center  
12247 Georgia Avenue  
Silver Spring, MD 20902  
- CMP 1 Part 3  
Body and Blood  
Community  
Service  
LSS8  
1:00 - 4:00 PM  
Cardinal McCarrick Center  
12247 Georgia Avenue  
Silver Spring, MD 20902  
- Teaching of Christ  
Modules 1 & 2  
Covenanted members  
1:00 - 4:00 PM  
Salazar property  
8627 Hilltop Rd  
Vienna, VA 22180  
Sept. 27, 2009  
Healing and Deliverance  
LSS7  
12:00 - 4:00 PM  
Cardinal McCarrick Center  
12247 Georgia Avenue  
Silver Spring, MD 20902