

January 28, 2018 Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, January 27

5:00 p.m. +**Charles Kelton**
By Carol and Dennis McKeivitt

Sunday, January 28

8:00 a.m. +**George and Louise Wyker & Cathering Gacek**
By The Wyker Family

10:30 a.m. **Parishioners of St. Theodore Church**

Monday, January 29

8:45 a.m. **Birthday Blessings for Andy Ryan**
By Bernadette Ryan

Tuesday, January 30

8:45 a.m. **In Thanksgiving of Saint Anthony**
By Angela Gross

Wednesday, January 31 *Saint John Bosco*

8:45 a.m. **Birthday Blessings for Bridget McGuire**
By Mary Rupell

Thursday, February 1 *NO MASS*

First Friday, February 2 *Presentation of the Lord*

8:45 a.m. +**Carolyn Ranelli**
By Theresa Cappello

First Saturday, February 3

8:45 a.m.
5:00 p.m. +**Members of the Kuharick Family**
By Rachael and Family

Sunday, February 4

8:00 a.m. +**William and Jesse Reynolds**
By Susan Reynolds

10:30 a.m. +**Christopher Roddy**
By Sue and Roger Siersma

Presentation of the Lord (February 2nd)

We are all familiar with Mother's Day and Father's Day which we celebrate every year. Why is there not a Parents' Day where we celebrate father and mother together as a couple? February 2nd should be a good day to focus on both parents together, as we see both parents of Jesus, Joseph and Mary, together make the long journey to Jerusalem to present their firstborn child in the Temple as the law of God required. In the image of Joseph and Mary presenting Jesus in the Temple, we have a wonderful model of husband and wife united in practicing the faith and in raising their child in the faith.

We read that "**When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present**

him to the Lord". Luke stresses the fact that they are doing it "**as it is written in the law of the Lord**" (verse 23). Joseph and Mary are presented as people who keep God's laws. Moreover, they are presented as doing it together. It is easier to walk in the ways of God when husband and wife walk it together and encourage each other along the way. Husband and wife are companions in the journey of life, especially in the journey to our ultimate destination. We see this as we contemplate Joseph and Mary together in the Temple in obedience to God's law.

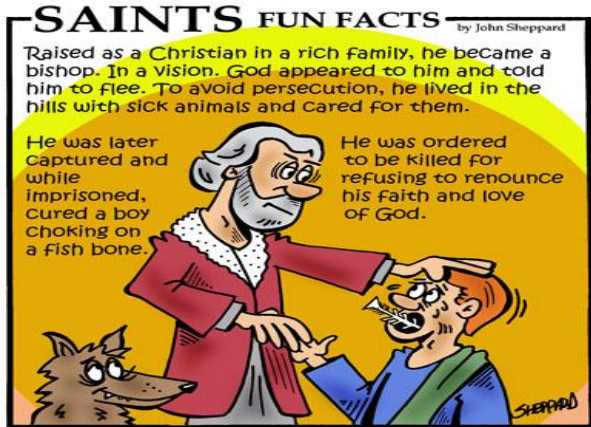
The aspect of this celebration that some people have a problem with is this: why would the baby Jesus, who is not in a position to say yes or no, be initiated into the Jewish religion without his consent? This is a problem especially for those of us who question the value of infant baptism. Some Christians today feel that baptism has no value until a child reaches the age of reason and then is able to decide for oneself. But this is not the example that Mary and Joseph are giving us today. The concern about the value of infant baptism is a concern that is born out of the exaggerated individualism of the modern society. In the biblical era, people saw the whole family as one entity. The question of husband, wife and child belonging to different religions was unthinkable because religion was supposed to play a role in cementing the family unity.

If parents are supposed to provide their children with the basic necessities of life, what is more basic than one's faith in God. No parents would think of allowing their children to decide whether they want to go to school or not, whether they want to learn the common language or not, whether they want to be a citizen of their country or not. We make these decisions for them, knowing fully well that when they grow up, they may decide to continue with what we gave them or abandon it. But only a foolish parent would refuse to send a child to school or teach a child their language and tradition in the name of respecting the child's freedom to choose. Similarly parents have a responsibility to initiate their children into their faith traditions. This is what we see today in the feast of presentation as

Joseph and Mary present Baby Jesus in the Jewish Temple.

As parents, we have the duty and privilege of raising our children in such a way that they grow up to become good and responsible citizens as well as committed children of God. The example of Joseph and Mary, show us that the best way to achieve this is not just by talking and shouting at them but by leading the way and showing them by the example of our own lives.

Feast of Saint Blaise, February 3



St. Blaise



Stephen, Bridget M., Savannah Paine, Bobby Gross, Keira Hedges, Peter, Zachary, Logan Peter Saksa, Anna Saksa, Lauren Lane, Jay Mildrum, Philip Kinney,

Kerry Kraft, Peter S., Mary Supple, Mary Rupell, Susan Reynolds, Robert Dicheck, Christian, Tara, Zoe, Teagan, Eric Harding, Kathy & Bob Y., Irma Marquart, Dolores Staiano, Gerard Schnaars

Trustee and Parish Council Meeting Summary:

- *It has been decided to move forward with electronic giving. Details to be worked out with the bank.
- *If our current salt spreader can't be fixed, we will ask for donations for the purchase of a new machine.
- *We've received more bids for drainage pipe installation.
- *Are looking for volunteer help with snow plowing of the church lots, especially on weekends.
- Youth Group doing well and membership is steady.
- Father wants the group to incorporate more faith/spirituality.
- *Fundraising upcoming: 50/50 raffle and Vacation raffle.

Our Weekly Offering

Sunday collection needed to meet weekly expenses: \$3,637.

- Sunday 1/7/18: \$2,562. (-\$1,075)
- Sunday 1/14/17: \$2,211. (-\$1,426)
- Sunday 1/21/17: \$2,354. (-\$1,284)

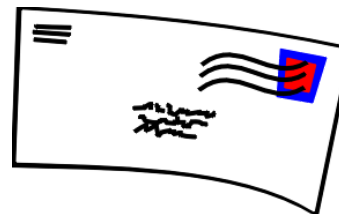
January Calendar

Tuesdays @ 6:30 pm: Bible Study
1/29 @ 6:15pm: 7th Grade at church for confessions

February Calendar

2/2 & 2/3: 8:45 a.m. First Friday & First Saturday: Mass and Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
2/5, 6:15 p.m.: 6th Grade in Church for confessions
2/7, 7pm: Altar Rosary Society Meeting
2/11: Hospitality Sunday 9 & 11:30 a.m.
2/12, 6:15 pm: 5th Grade in Church for confessions
2/14: Ash Wednesday: Masses: 8:45 am; 12 noon, 6:30 pm
2/14, 6:15 pm: Children and parents in church for Ash Wednesday
2/16: 7 pm: Stations of the Cross
2/19: No Religious Education & Parish and Religious Education Offices closed
2/23: 7 pm: Grades 1 thru 4: Stations of the Cross
Feb. 25, 26, 27, 28: Lenten Retreat

If you wish a statement for your 2017 contributions, please provide a self-addressed, stamped envelope to Mary Rupell.



FYI: We have received several envelopes for parishioner from the bishop. To save postage, we have put these envelopes on the table in the Narthex. Please stop by to see if there is an envelope for you.