

January 29, 2017 The Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, January 28

5:00 p.m. +**Francis Blevins**
By Rachael and Family

Sunday, January 29

8:00 a.m. +**Anna and George Redgate**
By Mary Rupell

10:30 a.m. +**Vincie Vallo**
By Victoria and Bob Dicheck

Monday, January 30

8:45 a.m. **In Honor of the Madonna of Health**
By Angela Gross

Tuesday, January 31 Saint John Bosco

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

Wednesday, February 1

8:45 a.m. +**Robert Gross and Charles Folk**
By Angela Gross

Thursday, February 2 NO MASS

First Friday, February 3 Saint Blaise

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

First Saturday, February 4

8:45 a.m. **Altar Rosary Society**
5:00 p.m. +**William and Jessie Reynolds**
By Susan Reynolds

Sunday, February 5

8:00 a.m. **Parishioners of St. Theodore Church**
10:30 a.m. +**Mary Madison**
By The Riedinger Family

the sacrifice prescribed for the poor: a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons.

Simeon and Anna were two venerable elderly people dedicated to prayer and fasting and so their strong religious spirit rendered them able to recognize the Messiah. In this sense we can see in the Presentation of Jesus in the Temple an extension of the 'Pro Orantibus Day' (For those who pray) that is celebrated on the feast of the Presentation of Mary (21 November). On this day, the Church demonstrates its gratitude to all those in the community that dedicate themselves in a privileged way to prayer, to those who have a particular religious vocation to the contemplative life. In the figure of the venerable Simeon, Jesus' presentation in the temple, also reminds us that prayer and contemplation are not just a waste of time or an obstacle to charity. On the contrary, time could not be better spent than in prayer as true Christian charity is a consequence of a solid interior life. Only those who pray and offer penance, like Simeon and Anna, are open to the breath of the Spirit. They know how to recognize the Lord in the circumstances in which He manifests Himself because they possess an ample interior vision, and they have learned how to love with the heart of the One whose very name is Charity.

At the end of the Gospel, Simeon's prophecy of Mary's sufferings is emphasized. Pope John Paul II taught that, '*Simeon's words seem like a second Annunciation to Mary, for they tell her of the actual historical situation in which the Son is to accomplish his mission, namely, in misunderstanding and sorrow.*' (*Redemptoris Mater*, n16) The archangel's announcement was a fount of incredible joy because it pertained to Jesus' messianic royalty and the supernatural character of His virginal conception. The announcement of the elderly in the temple instead spoke of the Lord's work of redemption that He would complete associating Himself through suffering to His Mother. Therefore, there is a strong Marian dimension to this feast and so in the Liturgical Calendar of the Extraordinary Form it is called the *Purification of the Blessed Virgin Mary*. This refers to the other aspect of the presentation that consists of the ritual purification of Jewish women after they had given birth. In Mary's case this purification was not necessary, but it indicates the renewal of her total offering of herself to God for the accomplishment of His Divine Plan.

Simeon's prophecy also announces that Christ will be '*a sign of contradiction*'. St. Cyril of Alexandria, in one of his homilies, interpreted the words '*sign of contradiction*' like a noble cross, as St. Paul wrote to



The Church celebrates the feast of the Presentation of the Lord on February 2, which occurs forty days after the birth of Jesus and is also known as Candlemas day, since the blessing and procession of candles is included in this day's

liturgy.

According to the 1962 Missal of St. John XXIII, the Extraordinary Form of the Roman Rite, today is referred to as the "Purification of Mary." This is known as a "Christmas feast" since it points back to the Solemnity of Christmas. Many Catholics practice the tradition of keeping out the Nativity crèche or other Christmas decorations until this feast.

Today's Gospel introduces us to different people and events that in themselves provide numerous lessons and themes for further reflection. First of all, Mary and Joseph respect the Mosaic Law by offering

the Corinthians 'a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles' (1 Cor 1:23) [...] It is a sign of contradiction in the sense that those who loose appear as foolish while in those who recognize its power [the cross] reveals salvation and life' (c.f PG 77, 1044-1049).



To our wonderful parishioners:
THANK YOU!
Your gifts to the *Giving Tree* made this Christmas' outreach project a resounding success. The organizations that we support were touched by your

tremendous response in making sure their clients received a special gift and a very wonderful Christmas. Thank you so much.

--Theresa Saksa, Chairperson

Saint John Bosco: Feast Day: January 31

John's father died when the boy was two years old; and as soon as he was old enough to do odd jobs, John did so to help support his family. Bosco would go to circuses, fairs and carnivals, practice the tricks that he saw magicians perform, and then put on one-boy shows. After his performance, while he still had an audience of boys, he would repeat the homily he had heard earlier that day in church.

In 1867, Pope Pius IX was upset with John Bosco because he wouldn't take his dreams seriously enough. Nine years earlier when Pope Pius IX met with the future saint who worked with neglected boys, he learned of the dreams that John had been having since the age of nine, dreams that had revealed God's will for John's life. So Pius IX had made a request, "Write down these dreams and everything else you have told me, minutely and in their natural sense." Pius IX saw John's dreams as a legacy for those John worked with and as an inspiration for those he ministered to. He worked as a tailor, baker, shoemaker, and carpenter while attending college and seminary. Ordained in 1841. As a teacher, he worked constantly with young people, finding places where they could meet, play and pray, teaching catechism to orphans and apprentices and also as a chaplain in a hospice for girls he did the same. He wrote short treatises aimed at explaining the faith to children, and then taught children how to print them. He was a friend of Saint Joseph Cafasso, whose biography he wrote, and a confessor to Blessed Joseph Allamano. St. John Bosco founded the *Salesians of Don Bosco (SDB)* in 1859, for priests who work with and educate boys, under the protection of Our Lady, Help of Christians, and Saint Francis de Sales. He also founded the *Daughters of Mary, Help of Christians* in 1872, and *Union of Cooperator Salesians* in 1875. St. John Bosco is the patron saint of Apprentices, editors, students, young people, laborers, Mexican young people.

Our Offering Jan. 15- \$2,479; 2016 \$650 (snow storm)

Church & Religious Education Schedule

Jan. 28, 6 pm: Youth Group Game Night

Jan. 30: All grades at school

Our Food Pantry Ministry is a vital outreach



Food Pantry
Donations Needed

program pledged to fulfill the continuing needs of our community and those of the surrounding area. In order to meet this commitment we need you to donate nonperishable

food items. We are asking that, if you are able, to bring food items such as soups, tuna, cereal, vegetables, pasta, etc. to our Parish Center. Once weekly, the items we collect are delivered to the Community Food Pantry of Washington, operated from the First Presbyterian Church, which serves more than 100 families. The Food Pantry depends on donations from local churches and organizations.



Stephen, Anthony Vitale, Bridget M., Savannah Paine, Bobby Gross, Michael Dante, Keira H., Maryann Vaughan, Robert Dicheck, Peter, Zachary, Logan Peter Saksa, Anna Paine, Maryann Vaughan, Anna

Saksa, Lauren Lane, Jay Mildrum, Philip Kinney, Mary D., Kerry Kraft, Patty Mahoney, Cheyann Miller, Cathy Moncello, Louise C., Peter S., Helen Dicheck, Mary Supple



Pajama Program

Good Nights are Good Days

Our church is participating in the *Hackettstown Pajama Program Contribution Drive*, a charity that provides new pajamas and books to needy children of Warren County. The Pajama Program is a 501c not for profit organization, which provides new, warm PJ's and books to children in need. These are youngsters who may not know the comforts of a mother or father to tuck them into a cozy bed and read them a bedtime story. Many have been abandoned, most deprived of any love at all. Please, if you are able, donate to this worthy cause. You will find a donation box in the Narthex. For more information, view the posters on our bulletin boards.