

Saturday, January 30

5 p.m. +**Catherine Baines**
By The Kappus Family

Sunday, January 31

8:00 a.m. **Birthday Blessings for Bridget McGuire**
By Mary Rupell

10:30 a.m. +**Jeanne McCormick**
By Karl and Rose Strohmaier

Monday, February 1 Saint Brigid of Ireland

8:45 a.m. **Parishioners of St. Theodore Church**

Tuesday, February 2 The Presentation of the Lord

8:45 a.m. **Special Intentions**
By Matt and Mary Ann DeLany

Wednesday, February 3 Saint Blaise

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

Thursday, February 4

8:45 a.m. +**William and Jessie Reynolds**
By Susan Reynolds

First Friday, February 5 Saint Agatha

8:45 a.m. +**Rose O'Connell**
By Karl and Rose Strohmaier

First Saturday, February 6 Saint Paul Miki

8:45 a.m. +**Theresa Rebinski**
By Henry Rebinski

5 p.m. +**Joseph, Nettie and Joseph Roche, Jr.**
By The Kappus Family

Sunday, January 7

8:00 a.m. **Birthday Blessings for Susan Reynolds**
By Susan Rineer and Family

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

The Feast of the Presentation of the Lord



The Presentation of Jesus at the temple celebrates an early episode in the life of Jesus. The event is described in the Gospel of Luke (Luke 2:22-40). According to

the gospel, Mary and Joseph took the infant Jesus to the temple in Jerusalem forty days after his birth to complete Mary's ritual purification after childbirth, and to perform the redemption of the firstborn son, in obedience to the Torah. Luke explicitly says that Joseph and Mary take the option provided for poor people (those who could not afford a lamb) sacrificing "a pair of turtledoves, or two young pigeons." Leviticus indicates that this event should take place forty days after birth for a male child, hence the Presentation is celebrated forty days after Christmas. Upon bringing Jesus into the temple, they encountered Simeon. The Gospel records that Simeon had been promised that "he should not see death before he had seen the Lord's Christ" (Luke

2:26). Simeon then uttered the prayer that would become known as the Canticle of Simeon, which prophesied the redemption of the world by Jesus: "Now, Master, you may let your servant go in peace, according to your word, for my eyes have seen your salvation, which you prepared in sight of all the peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and glory for your people Israel." (Luke 2:29-32). Simeon then prophesied to Mary: "Behold, this child is set for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and for a sign which is spoken against. Yes, a sword will pierce through your own soul, that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed" (Luke 2:34-35). The elderly prophetess Anna was also in the Temple, and offered prayers and praise to God for Jesus, and spoke to everyone there of His importance to redemption in Jerusalem (Luke 2:36-38).
The Presentation of the Lord: February 2



February 3: Feast of Saint Blaise

Blessing of Throats after the 8:45

Mass. Very few facts are known about Saint Blaise. It is believed that he was a bishop of Sebastea in Armenia who was martyred under the reign of Licinius in the early fourth century. The

legend of his life that sprang up in the eighth century tell us that he was born in to a rich and noble family who raised him as a Christian. He was a physician before becoming bishop. After becoming a bishop, a new persecution of Christians began. He received a message from God to go into the hills to escape persecution. Men hunting in the mountains discovered a cave surrounded by wild animals who were sick. Among them Blaise walked unafraid, curing them of their illnesses. Recognizing Blaise as a bishop, they captured him to take him back for trial. On the way back, he talked a wolf into releasing a pig that belonged to a poor woman and have miraculously cured a little boy who nearly died because of the fishbone in his throat. When Blaise was sentenced to be starved to death, the woman, in gratitude, sneaked into the prison with food and candles. Finally Blaise was killed by the governor. The blessing may be given by touching the throat of each person with two candles blessed on the feast of the Presentation of the Lord and which have been joined together in the form of the cross.

During the Fridays of the Holy Season of Lent, please join us at 3 p.m. for the Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, the Chaplet of the Divine Mercy; Confessions at 6:30 p.m., Stations of the Cross at 7 p.m. and Eucharistic Adoration at 7:30 p.m.



The Holy Season of Lent

Ash Wednesday, February 10, is one of the most popular and important holy days. Ash Wednesday takes place 40 days before Easter (not including

Sundays), and is chiefly observed by Catholics, although many other Christians observe it too. Ash Wednesday comes from the ancient Jewish tradition of penance and fasting. The practice includes the wearing of ashes on the head. The ashes symbolize the dust from which God made us. As the priest applies ashes to a person's forehead, he speaks the words: "Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return." Alternatively, the priest may speak the words, "Repent and believe in the Gospel." Ashes also symbolize grief, in this case, grief that we have sinned and caused division from God. It is important to remember that Ash Wednesday is a day of penitential prayer and fasting.

Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are obligatory days of fasting and abstinence for Catholics. All other Fridays of Lent are days of abstinence only. The obligation to fast applies only to Catholics between the ages of 18 and 59: one full meal a day, so as to experience hunger. Abstinence means to abstain from meat.

Lent and Confession: Those who approach the Sacrament of Penance obtain pardon from God's mercy for the offense against Him and are, at the same time, reconciled with the Church which they have wounded by their sins, and which by charity, example, and prayer labors for their conversion.



On Feb. 1 Catholics in Ireland and elsewhere will honor Saint Brigid of Kildare, a monastic foundress who is – together with Saint Patrick and Saint Columcille – one of the country's three patron saints. St. Brigid directly influenced several other future saints of

Ireland, and her many religious communities helped to secure the country's conversion from paganism to the Catholic faith. Brigid, with an initial group of seven companions, is credited with organizing communal consecrated religious life for women in Ireland. Bishop Mel of Ardagh – St. Patrick's nephew, and later "St. Mel" – accepted Brigid's profession as a nun.

She is traditionally associated with the Cross of St. Brigid, a form of the cross made from reeds or straw that is placed in homes for blessing and protection.



Please pray for: Stephen, Elizabeth Ondroczy, Rosaria Incantalupo, Anthony Vitale, Bridget M., Savannah Paine, Bobby Gross, Michael Dante, Keira H., Maryann Vaughan, Charlie

Guerriere, Sr., Robert Dicheck, Peter, Zachary, Logan Peter Saksa, Anna Saksa, Lauren Lane, Jay Mildrum, Philip Kinney, Mary D., Eleanor D., Kerry Kraft

Our Offering January 23/24: \$650. (24" Snow)
Last Year: \$ 2,520.

Church Announcements

- **Confessions** will be heard 30 minutes before the start of every Mass—weekends, as well as daily Masses.
- **Home Visitations:** Every First Friday beginning at 10:30 a.m. Call Mary at the Parish Office to be put on the list.
- **Special Celebration:** February 2, 8:45am Mass Presentation of the Lord.
- **Blessing of the Throats, Feast Day of St. Blaise:** February 3: 8:45am Mass
- **Special Collection:** February 13/14: National Collection for Humanitarian and Church Needs for Severe Weather Relief in the United States
- **Feb. 14:** Hospitality Sunday after the Masses
- **Feb. 14: 11:30:** Youth Group Meatball Subs & Soda Sale--\$4.
- **Ash Wednesday Mass Schedule:** 8:45 a.m., 12 Noon, 6:30 p.m.
- **Divine Mercy Devotion: Every Lenten Friday:** 3 p.m.: Divine Mercy Chaplet and Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament.
- **Stations of the Cross:** 7 p.m. every Friday during Lent. Immediately following the Stations, Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament will take place.
- **Altar Rosary Society Meeting:** Feb. 3 @ 7pm

Religious Education Schedule

Feb 1: All grades at School

Feb. 8: 7th Grade at Church with parents; all others at School

Feb. 10, 6:30 pm: Ash Wednesday: All grades at Church

Feb.15: No School: Presidents' Day

Feb. 19, 7 pm: Grades 1 thru 4: At Church for Stations of the Cross

Feb. 22: All grades at School

Feb. 26, 7 pm: Grades 5 thru 8: At Church for Stations of the Cross

Feb. 29: All grades at School