

## February 2, 2014: The Presentation of the Lord



“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 the sight of all the peoples: a light for revelation to the Gentiles.”

— Lk 2:29-32  
Lutheran Book Concern, 1979

### LITURGY

#### MASS INTENTIONS & READINGS

#### Sunday, February 2, *The Presentation of the Lord* (Mal 3:1-4/Heb 2:14-18/Lk 2:22-40 or 2:22-32)

8:00 am- Leroy Bludau

10:30 am- For our Parish Family

#### Monday, February 3, *St. Blaise, Bishop & Martyr; St. Ansgar, Bishop* (2 Sm 15:13-14, 30; 16:5-13/Mk 5:1-20)

7:00 am- William & Ilene Pastucha

10:00 am- Henrietta Fabian, Benefactor (H'ville Rehab)

#### Tuesday, February 4 (2 Sm 18:9-10, 14b, 24-25a, 30-19:3/Mk 5:21-43)

7:00 am- Edwin Pesek

#### Wednesday, February 5, *St. Agatha, Virgin & Martyr* (2 Sm 24:2, 9-17/Mk 6:1-6)

7:00 am- Living & deceased members of Louis & Mary Rother Family

8:05 am- Living & deceased members of Joe & Bernadina Bludau Family

#### Thursday, February 6, *St. Paul Miki & Companions, Martyrs* (1 Kgs 2:1-4, 10-12/Mk 6:7-13)

7:00 am- Dorothy Henneke & Trey Kapalski

10:00 am- Stanley Kutac (Stevens)

#### Friday, February 7 (Sir 47:2-11/Mk 6:14-29)

7:00 am- Josephine Janak

8:05 am- Gene Szwarc

#### Saturday, Feb. 8, *St. Jerome Emiliani; St. Josephine Bakhita, Virgin* (1 Kgs 3:4-13/Mk 6:30-34)

5:30 pm- Floyd & Marietta Siegel

#### Sunday, Feb. 9 (Is 58:7-10/1 Cor 2:1-5/Mt 5:13-16)

8:00 am- For our Parish Family

10:30 am- Vernon Supak

**Church Bulletin & Radio Broadcast Sponsor:** In memory of Leroy Bludau by his family.

**Vigil Light:** In thanksgiving for answered prayers.

**Our Gift to God:** Envelopes-\$6,413.50; Manna Food Pantry-\$2,075; Church in Latin America-\$350; Loose-\$1,348; Children-\$53.

Please pray for the repose of the souls of *Margaret Kunz* sister of Bessie Dornak; and, *Theresa Jalufka* of St. Mary's. *May they & all the faithful departed rest in the peace of Christ.*

*Please pray for vocations to the priesthood and religious life!*



## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### MONDAY, FEBRUARY 3

-Evening Praise, 5:30 p.m., Church.

### TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 4

-Quilting Circle, 9:00 a.m., K.C. Hall of Fame Room.

-K.C. General Meeting, 7:30 p.m., K.C. Hall.

### WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 5

-CCD: K-12<sup>th</sup> Grades, 6:00-7:30 p.m.

-Divine Mercy Study/Prayers, 7:30 p.m., Cry Room.

### THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 6

-First Friday Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament begins at 6:00 p.m. in church. Intention this month: *For all families, especially troubled and broken families.*

-Holy Hour for priestly vocations, 7:00 p.m. in church.

-RCIA Class, 7:00-8:30 p.m., Family Center.

### FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 7

-First Friday Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament ends with Benediction at 6:00 p.m.

### SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 9

-First Communion Workshop, 2:00 p.m., Family Center.

-Youth Night Holy Hour, 5:00 p.m. in church.

**Among our sick:** Donna Avant, Lorene Christ, Matt Pohler, Wilbert Kalinec, Mary Bonorden, Josephine Muniz, Vivian Janak, Bobbie Lee Drozd, Donna Steffek, Glenn Rabel, Lisa Grissom, Richard Grahmann, Colin Grahmann, Emil Hermes, Georgia Schaefer, Pat Hanslik, Leroy Loth, Barbara Kubena, Kathy Davis, Yvonne Muska, Russell Janak, Elrose Ehler, Marilyn Palmquist, Doug Blumberg, Terry Mitchon Bludau, Amanda Gutierrez, Melissa Pilat, Becky Pekar, Kyle Stellige, Victor Vasek, Kassia Kubena, Barbara Gummelt, Louise Tesch nursing home residents, & the homebound.

Anniversaries:

Robbie & Holly Haas 30 years Feb. 3

Welcome to the Parish: Michael & Karen Brown, and daughter, Mia; Marsha & Danny Matura, and children, Katelyn & Dawson; and, Troy & Christa Spring.

January Baptisms: Jaedyn Irene, daughter of Jeremy & Shannon Grahmann; Byrkleese Reese, daughter of Roy & Ashley Cook; and, Lana Michelle, daughter of Ryan & Sara Opela.

Area Festivals & Picnics:

St. Mary Parish Festival, Feb. 9, Victoria Com. Center.  
St. Roch Parish Turkey-Dressing Dinner, Feb. 9, Mentz.

Saints & Legends of Ireland in the Footsteps of St. Patrick with Fr. Albert Yankey of St. Philip Church, El Campo, July 10-21 from Houston. Call Ceci Triska 979-541-7699 or email [jctriska@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jctriska@sbcglobal.net) for more info.

Sacred Heart Credit Union Mtg., Feb. 3, KC Hall. All members invited. Registration 6 pm. Meeting 6:30 pm, followed by meal. There is no charge. Door prizes given.

*From the Desk of Msgr. John*

This past Tuesday and Wednesday, I attended the Ordination and Installation of Bishop Michael Olson as the new bishop of Fort Worth. I was his formation director at St. Mary's Seminary in Houston.

Congratulations to all the young people who placed in the Hallettsville Junior Livestock Show and also all the young people who entered. This is a great learning experience for our young people.

Thank you to all who helped in any way with Catholic Schools Week this past week. It was a very interesting, enlightening and fun-filled week. Thank you to everyone who helps support Sacred Heart Catholic School in any way.

This weekend we will have the Blessing of Throats after all the Masses since the Feast of St. Blaise is on Monday, February 3<sup>rd</sup>.

This weekend Msgr. Jim Henke is helping with some of the Masses since Fr. Daniel is gone.

If you have not yet signed up to have your picture taken for the church pictorial directory, please do so!!!!

CCD News ~~

Feb. 9: First Communion Workshop, 2:00 p.m., Family Center.

Feb. 16: **Confirmation Candidates attendance** of the Youth Spectacular at Holy Family Church in Victoria is **mandatory**. Doors open 11:00 a.m. Event begins 11:30 a.m. Holy Mass at 5:00 p.m. celebrated by Bishop David Fellhauer.

Sacred Heart Catholic School News ~~

Feb. 6: Magazine Drive begins. Save your magazine renewal notices and discount coupons, and subscribe through SHCS.

Feb. 7: Early dismissal at 1:00 p.m.; staff meeting.

Feb. 8: Junior-Senior Prom. Mass at 7:00 p.m.

Feb. 10: High School students dismissed from classes. TAPPS District Academic Meet.

Youth Group ~ A big thank you to all students who attended the rally for life in Austin and supported the cause for life! Also, congratulations to all our students who participated in this weekend's stock show!

Just a reminder - we will be having our **YOUTH NIGHT on Feb. 9th** from 5:00-7:30 p.m. Following adoration, we will be eating hot dogs and Frito pies, playing games, and discussing our upcoming events.

Also, we encourage all youth to turn in their forms for the **YOUTH SPECTACULAR before Feb. 4th** to get the group rate of \$15.00.

Lastly, keep in mind we are accepting registrations for our summer trip to Louisiana for the **STEUBENVILLE ON THE BAYOU** Catholic Youth Conference.

God bless!!

**PARISH DIRECTORY:** Photography begins this week, February 4-8 for the parish directory. Please come **no more than 5 minutes before** your scheduled time. There is no need to wait....come in, take the picture, view your portrait and it's done!

Parish Directory sign-up will be held after all Masses next weekend. Dates of photography: February 18-25, February 25-March 1 and March 4-8. Early sign-ups get first choice of times! Remember there is no cost to you or the church to have your photographs taken, and you will receive a free 8x10 portrait and parish directory for participating. Call Linda Pavliska 798-3253 or go online at [www.shcatholicchurch.org](http://www.shcatholicchurch.org) to schedule appointments.

**Dates to remember:** Group pictures will be taken in church after 8:00 a.m. Mass on February 16 for the following – **Altar Servers, Cantors, Organists, Lectors, Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion, Rosary Leaders & Ushers.** Please make every effort to be present for these pictures.

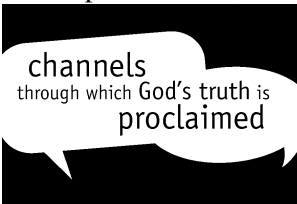
**Presentation of the Lord –**

"The child's father and mother were amazed at what was said about Him." Simeon surprised Mary and Joseph with his declaration that their baby was the long-awaited Messiah. They of course knew the truth about their Son's identity and mission. But to hear someone else announce it was the



amazing part. The Gospel tells us that the Holy Spirit was upon Simeon; thus he had a kind of divine revelation about the baby Jesus. God spoke through him to confirm the holy secret that Mary and Joseph already kept in their hearts. Anna too spoke about the child as "the redemption of Jerusalem," thus adding another mystical assurance that Jesus was in fact the Savior.

These events that took place during the Presentation in the Temple can remind us about the important role of the members of the believing community. Like Simeon and Anna, we are meant to encourage one another, and to announce the Gospel to others with courage and conviction. When we are rooted in prayer, and attuned to the Holy Spirit, we too can be effective instruments of God's power. Then, amazing things can happen! We



become the channels through which God's truth is proclaimed, and through which His love and healing, comfort and compassion, are given to other people.

Indeed, when we are "righteous and devout" like Simeon, and dedicated to prayer like Anna, we prepare ourselves to become Christ's coworkers in the world.

# Growing in FAITH™

Discovering hope and joy in the Catholic faith.

February 2014

## Sacred Heart, St. Mary, St. John and Ascension Churches

Fr. John C. Peters, Pastor

### One Minute Meditations

#### St. Scholastica

Twin sister of St. Benedict, St. Scholastica founded a

Benedictine community for women five miles from her brother's monastery. The twins visited annually for prayer and spiritual consultation. One year, Scholastica asked her brother to spend the night but he declined in compliance with his own rule requiring monks to sleep in his monastery. Scholastica prayed and a thunderstorm erupted, preventing Benedict's departure. Three days later, Benedict saw a dove rising from his sister's convent and realized she had died.

#### Live unafraid

Christ suffered, died, and rose to free us from our fears. "I live by faith in the Son of God who has loved me and given himself up for me" (Galatians 2:20b).

"We are not some casual and meaningless product of evolution. Each of us is the result of a thought of God. Each of us is willed, each of us is loved, each of us is necessary."

Pope (Emeritus) Benedict



## What to do when God feels distant

There are times when God seems so close that we are filled with a glorious feeling of love. At other times he can seem so distant it's as if he has turned his back. God lets this happen for our good. Still, that distant feeling can be hard to bear.

**Look for a cause.** Sometimes we cause distance to crop up between us without even realizing it. We may have become overly-confident of our spiritual strength and yielded to temptation. Or, we neglected prayer or Sunday Mass.

**Pray your way back.** Distance can lead to discouragement, but don't let that keep you from prayer. Reaching out to God is the surest way to find

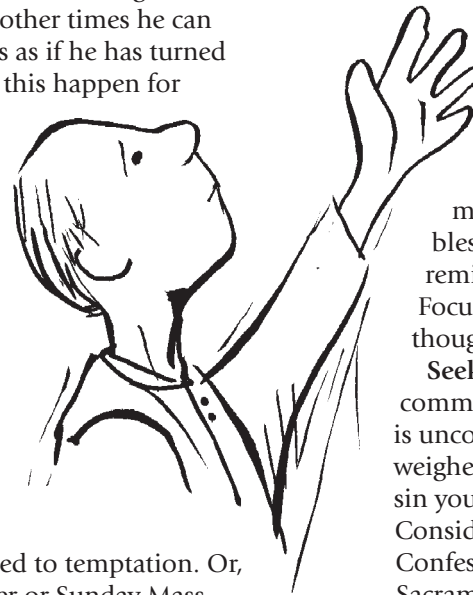
your way back. Enlist the help of the saints or the Blessed Mother.

**Meditate on what you know.**

Regularly repeat God's promises of salvation, Jesus' pledge of eternal love, memories of God's past blessings, anything that reminds you of his love. Focus on these beautiful thoughts over and over.

**Seek Reconciliation.** A common cause for distance is unconfessed sin. Are you weighed down by a fault or sin you are avoiding facing? Consider making a full Confession and seek the Sacrament regularly. Perform

an act of penance, such as fasting, to take the focus off yourself. Then you will find he has been beside you all along.



## Why Do Catholics Do That?

Catholics evangelize (spread the Gospel) because Jesus said to, "Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have

## Why do Catholics evangelize?

commanded you" (Matthew 28: 19-20).

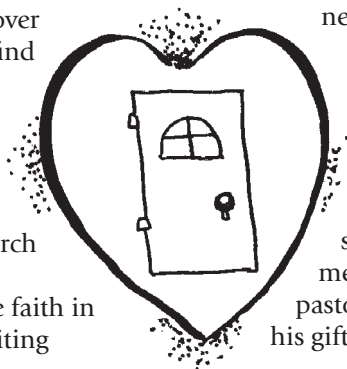
Some ways we bring new disciples to Jesus include treating others with love, living a holy life, passing on the faith to our children, supporting our parish ministries, and by telling others about God.



# Open your door, open your heart

Despite warm and welcoming parishes all over the country, many Catholics still struggle to find a parish home. Large parishes can be intimidating while plugging into smaller, established ones can be difficult, too. What can we do to welcome new or returning Catholics to our parish homes?

**Open your door** – Masses in the early Church were held in the homes of believers. New or prospective Christians were introduced to the faith in loving, personal environments. Consider inviting



new parishioners to your home for dinner and introduce them to other parishioners, or become part of your parish hospitality efforts to welcome new or returning Catholics.

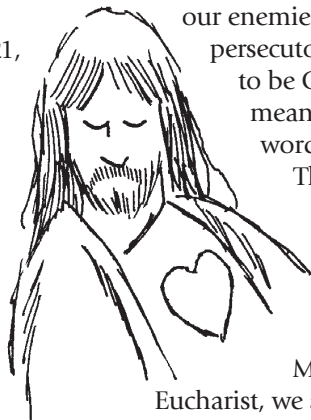
**Open your heart** – Look for those in your family, among friends, or in the workplace who might be searching for a spiritual home. Invite someone new each month to share Mass and a meal. Give a tour of the church and introduce the pastor. Let your visitor know that your parish can use his gifts and he will find a new family in your parish.

## from Scripture

### Matthew 5:38-48, Heart speaks to heart

The ancient concept of justice, “an eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth,” is from Exodus 21:24, Leviticus 24:20 and Deuteronomy 19:21, and was originally meant to limit retribution from escalating into blood feuds between clans. It was later misused to exact a form of personal justice. Instead, Jesus proposed a new approach, one that leads not to justice on Earth but in Heaven.

Loving our enemies or those who have offended us repeatedly requires forgiveness. Sometimes forgiveness seems



impossible but we are to teach and treat others the way Jesus does even to loving our enemies and praying for our persecutors. As Christians, we are to be Christ to others. That means teaching not just by our words but by our actions, too.

Then Jesus directed us to “be perfect.” That we cannot do without the help of the Holy Spirit to guide us, and by faithful attendance at

Mass. Through the Eucharist, we are nourished by the very body and blood of Jesus. He gives us the strength we need to live a more perfect life.

## Q Can I receive Communion & if I am returning to the Church after many years?

Welcome back! There is a step to take before you can be in full communion with Christ. In order to be properly disposed for the Eucharist, “A Catholic must be in a state of grace to receive Holy Communion, and anyone aware of being in a state of mortal sin must first receive absolution in the Sacrament of Penance” (CCC, section 1415).



When you were away from the Church, you may have missed Sunday Mass, for example. That is considered a mortal sin for a baptized Catholic and requires seeking God’s forgiveness through the Sacrament of Penance.

You may feel anxious or nervous about going to Confession after a long absence from the Church. Please remember that the primary purpose of this Sacrament is to reconcile us to Christ who waits patiently for us when we have turned from him. Remember also, that one of a priest’s great joys is being able to convey God’s forgiveness to those sincerely seeking it. He will be happy to guide you through it.

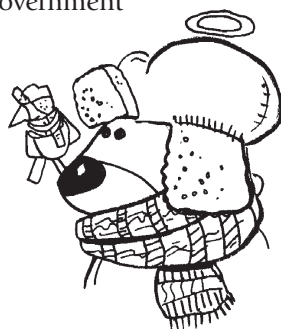
## Feasts & Celebrations

**February 8 – St. Jerome Emiliani (1537).** St. Jerome Emiliani was imprisoned by the enemy when he was a militia officer. In prison he taught himself how to pray and was inspired to escape safely. He later became a priest and with his own resources opened orphanages, a homeless shelter, and a hospital.

**February 11 – Our Lady of Lourdes (1858)** A heavenly “lady” appeared to St. Bernadette Soubirous, a poor and sickly girl from a small village in France. Soon after the first vision, a spring with miraculous, healing waters emerged

from a nearby cave. The “lady” revealed herself as the “Immaculate Conception” – the Blessed Virgin Mary.

**February 23 – St. Polycarp (156).** Bishop of Smyrna, Asia-Minor, Polycarp was a disciple of the apostle St. John and a friend of St. Ignatius of Antioch. He faithfully cared for his flock despite being surrounded by pagans and a government opposed to his religion. Before he was martyred, he thanked God for making him worthy of a martyr’s death.



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