

MASS SCHEDULE**Mon., Jan. 30- Weekday****2 Sm 15: 13-14, 30; 16: 5-13/****Mk 5: 1-20**

8:00 a.m. Bob Babbitt

Tues., Jan. 31- St. John Bosco**2 Sm 18: 9-10, 14b, 24-25a, 30—****19:3/Mk 5: 21-43**

8:00 a.m. The Fernandez & Murphy Families

Wed., Feb. 1- Weekday**2 Sm 24: 2, 9-17/Mk 6: 1-6**

8:00 a.m. Mary Strauss

9:00 a.m. Jim Murphy

Thurs., Feb. 2- The Presentation of the Lord**Mal 3: 1-4/Heb 2: 14-18****/Lk 2: 22-40**

8:00 a.m. William Kosek

Fri., Feb. 3- St. Blaise**Sir 47: 2-11/Mk 6: 14-29**

8:00 a.m. Jim Siemer

Sat., Feb. 4- Weekday**1 Kgs 3: 4-13/Mk 6: 30-34**

8:00 a.m. Gerald Eish

Sat., Feb. 4- Sunday Vigil Mass

5:00 p.m. Dixie DeLuca

Feb. 5-Fifth Sunday Ord. Time**Jb 7: 1-4, 6-7/1 Cor 9: 16-19, 22-****23/Mk 1: 29-39**

8:30 a.m. People of the Parish

11:00 a.m. Sue Jolley

5:00 p.m. Kate & Tony Scanlon

SACRISTANS**WEEK OF JANUARY 30**

Nancy Walsh & Chris Cavallaro

ALTAR SERVERS**WEEK OF JANUARY 30****DAILY MASS – 8:00 A.M.****M-W:** Cody Kirkbride & Daniel Hooffstetter**Th – Sat.:** Kolbe Sarko & Abigail Schmitz**WEEKLY HOLY HOUR****THURSDAY EVENINGS****6:30 P.M.-7:30 P.M.****Adoration/Confessions****PLEASE REMEMBER, MINISTERS...****All of us are counting on you!****The priests, the congregation...everyone!****If you cannot make your scheduled ministry, please make sure you get a substitute in advance.****THANK YOU!****SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 4~ 5:00 P.M. MASS****LITURGICAL COORDINATOR:** Pam King**EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS: N. SIDE:** Phil Petrosky, Lynn Stelmach, Christina Norberto**S. SIDE:** Abigail Selid, Barbara Murphy, Kathleen Schirner, Amber Krieger**LECTORS: P:1** Tish Baumann **P:2** Tom Brandewie**CANTOR:** Laura Bowen**ALTAR SERVERS:** Madeline Brandewie, Seth Brewer, Kevin Krieger**USHERS:** Jennifer Petrosky, Victor Pasini, Tom & Margaret Lyons**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 5 ~ 8:30 A.M. MASS****LITURGICAL COORDINATOR:** Rita Hoyt**EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS: N. SIDE:** Debby Michael, Cary Ryan Denny Devine, Molly McCarrick**S. SIDE:** Gerry O'Neil, Mary Underwood, Steve Shonk, Gary Allwein**SHUT-INS:** Jim & Carol Klunk, Gerry O'Neil, Doc MacKinnon, Kevin Smith, Mary Underwood**Sunrise Assisted Living:** Cary Ryan**Arbors East:** Pam King**LECTORS: P: 1** Shelley Hoben **P:2** Dane Galden**CANTOR:** Rob Kossler**ALTAR SERVERS:** Kolbe and Henry Sarko, Kyle Russo**USHERS:** Mary Thurn, Tom Ewing, Tom Easley, Jimmy Corrova, Ferg Theibert**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 5 ~ 11:00 A.M. MASS****LITURGICAL COORDINATOR:** Meg Allwein**EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS: N. SIDE:** Emily Reed, Austin Mauk, Pat, Kara & Lisa Kelley**S. SIDE:** Yvonne Moyer, Chika Mora, Sara Sweeney, Peggy & Molly Mackessy**LECTORS: P:1** Bob Moraine **P:2** Stephanie Moraine**CANTOR:** Barb Beck**INTERPRETER:** Kaitlyn Finneran**ALTAR SERVERS:** Sarah & Josh Moraine, Tyler Sweeney**USHERS:** Joe Atria, Kathy & Tom Kuhn, Jim Gregory, Michael & Mike Jolley**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 5 ~ 5:00 P.M. MASS****LITURGICAL COORDINATOR:** Jon Masys**EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS:** *Volunteers from the congregation***LECTORS: P:1** Ashley Bowsher **P:2:** Daniel Smalley**CANTOR:** Mary Gardner**ALTAR SERVERS:** Phil Suozzi, Rachel Hemon, Ben Reis**USHERS:** Chris Bowers

From the Pastor...

My Dear Friends in Christ:

AS THE CATHOLIC CHURCH CELEBRATES CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK: You have heard me talk about this many times before, but it is worth repeating. One of the gems of our parish – and, in all honesty, in the Columbus Diocese – is our parish school. I’m not saying this simply because I am the pastor. I say this objectively because of the consistent, high-quality education and faith formation that is provided to our students. This is a result of dedicated, caring teachers and staff (this is not simply a job and a paycheck to them – it is a vocation), a principal who has dedicated her life to education and to bringing about the best our parish school can offer; a very involved school advisory board, and of course parents who see the benefits of a Catholic education for their children, who make sacrifices to send their children here by adjusting priorities in their lives, and who get involved in making the school the best it can be. Let’s not forget our students – great young men and women who appreciate all that is afforded to them here at St. Catharine’s, and who benefit directly from all that is offered at our school. These young men and women are the future of our parish and our Church – they are our future leaders. No one, from the beginning of this school’s existence, until the present day – no one ever looked to gain wealth, or power, or prestige by giving themselves to the service of St. Catharine of Siena School. For this is not, nor can it ever be, the goal of those who would work in Catholic education. We are here as servants – we are here to be humble, and to put others first, especially the children who are brought into the world by devoted parents, and whom the Lord and His Church wishes us to cherish above all the wealth and good that the world can offer. And this has been the history of St. Catharine of Siena School – the priests who have served here as pastors and associate pastors; the sisters who helped make it happen with such dedicated, day-in day-out labor; the teachers who joined them out of a dedication which raises the word “job” to the level of vocation; the families and devoted parishioners who have always supported the school no matter the nature of the need or the depth of the challenge. All of these together have constituted a wealth that cannot be gauged in terms of money or precious possessions. All of these have built a power for good that has never been tainted by greed. All of these – **ALL OF YOU** – have been the window to the future – perhaps not knowing where the next dollar for tuition might come from, perhaps not seeing how the energy to survive one more day of teaching could be summoned, perhaps not understanding how far the consequences of your giving might go. But giving nevertheless, giving again and again, knowing full well that tomorrow will ask for more, and that more must be found. Again, thank you. As we begin Catholic Schools Week I would like to invite everyone to the Open Houses in our parish Pre-School, Kindergarten and Elementary School on **Sunday, January 29, beginning at 12 Noon**. If you are new to the parish, I invite you to check out our wonderful school facilities, meet with teachers and advisory board members. If you’re an alumnus, come over and walk the halls where you spent so many of your formative years and see how you can support your school.

ON THIS FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME we are reminded that Jesus teaches unlike any other teacher. His contemporaries said He “taught with authority, unlike the scribes.” They scribes always used to cite Sacred Scripture or Jewish tradition, to base their teachings on the authority of the word of God. Well, Jesus didn’t need to cite the word of God, because He was (and is) the word of God. “Authority” comes from the Latin word for “author,” and Jesus spoke with authority because He was the author, the creator, of man and the world. He could command the seas and the wind (Mark 4:41) and the demons and they would obey Him, because He is the Lord of all. Jesus continues to teach with that authority, and does so clearly at Mass. The fathers of the Second Vatican Council reminded us that “when the holy scriptures are read in Church, it is Christ himself who speaks” (*Sacrosanctum Concilium*, 7). That is why we stand when the Gospel is proclaimed, because Christ himself is proclaiming it through His priest or deacon. But Christ also speaks to us with his authority through the teaching of the Catholic Church. He gave the Catholic Church His own amazing authority to continue His saving work. Before ascending into heaven, Jesus said to His apostles: “Full authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you” (Matthew 28:18-20). He gave that authority in a special way to the visible head of the Church He founded. He told Peter that he was the rock on whom he was going to build His Church and then gave him the authority to open and lock the way to heaven: “I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven” (Matthew 16:19). This authority was passed down to St. Peter’s successors all the way to Pope Benedict XVI. But Christ also gave His authority to the apostles as a whole (and their successors, the bishops). He made it very clear that they speak and teach in His name: “Whoever hears you hears me, and whoever rejects you rejects me” (Luke 10:16). Let us remember that all those who listened to Christ’s teachings were “astounded at his teaching, for he taught with authority and not like the scribes.” May we be astounded at His truths as well.

~ Fr. Mike Lumpe



The Integrated Catholic LifeTM

INTEGRATING FAITH, FAMILY AND WORK

The prophetic voice of the Catholic Church for life and human dignity

by Deacon Mike Bickerstaff

We live in an age that is filled with signs and wonders, many of which are ominous and terrifying – our economies continue in turmoil, wars and the fears of nuclear terrorism rage, our environment is being polluted in ways unseen before, our families, youth and societal institutions continue their collapse. Some people see these and try to discern their meaning. Others seem to hardly notice at all. The writer of the New Testament Letter to the Hebrews opens with verses that emphatically proclaim that God has spoken to us through His Son. We should listen:

“In many and various ways God spoke of old to our fathers by the prophets; but in these last days He has spoken to us by a Son, whom He appointed the heir of all things, through whom He also created the ages. He reflects the glory of God and bears the very stamp of His nature, upholding the universe by His word of power...” (Hebrews 1:1-3 RSV-CE)

God’s message is wonderful, loving, transforming and true; but it is not universally received. It is a message that is timely and relevant to our lives today, as it has been in every age. Its import and urgency applies to each of us, no matter how young or old we are, whether single or married, rich or poor. We have been redeemed by our God Who became man. He has made it possible for us to accept and receive His loving invitation to Communion with Him. He has made it possible for us to attain the supernatural end for which we were created.

No message is more urgent and life-giving. Listen to the Apostle Paul as he writes to the Romans and exhorts them to the new life in Christ:

“I appeal to you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world [age] but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that you may prove what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.” (Romans 12:1-2)

Preceding this passage, Paul wrote movingly of the rejection by so many of the Jewish people of the Gospel of Christ. As with so many of the prophets sent by Almighty God to His people, Jesus and his message, were rejected by the people to whom it was first given and the consequences were disastrous for them. They were thinking, not like God does, but like men do. Paul suffers in his heart for these people... he cares deeply for them as he also cares for those who embraced the Gospel. So like the prophets before him, he tells them the truth that they need to hear and not the poisonous message of the popular culture that they might prefer.

What message do we open our minds and hearts to in our day? Do we listen to God as He speaks through the Church His Son established, or do we go our own way justifying our sin by our own distorted reasoning? St. Paul knows what we need to hear and he loves us enough to tell it to us straight, “Do not conform yourselves to this age.”

“Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgments and how inscrutable his ways! For who has known the mind of the Lord or who has been his counselor?” (Romans 11:32-33)

Think as God does, not as man does

We need to stop kidding ourselves; we are not our own creators. We do not know better than God how we are to live. We do not know better than God where our true happiness lies. Have you surrendered your life to Christ so that you can live the new life in Him?

We see a perfect example of our wrong thinking in St. Matthew’s Gospel (Matthew 16:21-27). Jesus tells his chosen apostles of the passion and death He must endure. He had just told them before that He will build His Church on the Rock of Peter. He is preparing them now for what must come. Like so many of us, Peter does not yet get it. He takes Jesus aside and tells Him, “No! I will not permit it. It will never be so.” So Jesus says to Peter the very thing that Peter could never imagine Him saying. He calls Peter “Satan” and tells him, “Get thee

behind me, you think not as God does, but as men do.” Jesus, out of love for His friend, tells him what he must hear, not what he wants to hear.

To be Catholic is to be counter-cultural

Our Catholic faith and the culture of the times are opposed. Our Catholic faith teaches eternal truths that are not popular with the age. The times, they come and go, but the truth is forever unchanging. Listen to what Jesus tells us:

- If you want to follow me, you must deny yourself and take up your cross.
- If you want to save your life (i.e., conform yourself to the age), you will lose it.
- If you are willing to give your life to me, you will find it.
- What does it profit you to gain the world if you lose God?

The Psalms proclaim that the love of God is better than one’s life. Peter did not yet get it, but he would soon. When we understand this truth, we will understand why God tells us so often through scripture not to be afraid. The Prophet Jeremiah certainly came to understand though he suffered greatly. Let me tell you just a bit about Jeremiah and his mission. When God called Jeremiah he was a very young adult... He declared to him: “Before I formed you in the womb, I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you. I appointed you a prophet to the nations.” (Jeremiah 1:5 RSV-CE)

God’s people had abandoned the right practice of the faith. They turned their backs to God and allowed themselves to be conformed to the age. So God sent Jeremiah to them, right in the heart of Jerusalem to call them back. Jeremiah, reluctantly accepted this call... he obeyed. God said to him, “Be not afraid, I go before you always.” So Jeremiah went, following God. But God’s people would not listen. The people of Judah found themselves in the middle of an armed struggle between the two great powers of the day, 600 years before the time of Christ. Jeremiah warned them that this was more than a mere historical condition. It was the moral consequence of their rejection of God.

And they hated Jeremiah for what he said. And when they were carried off into the Babylonian Exile and Jerusalem lay in total waste, they eventually stoned Jeremiah to death, just like others would one day call for the crucifixion of Jesus. And just as Jerusalem was destroyed in Jeremiah’s time, Jerusalem would once again be destroyed by an army after Jesus is rejected.

Don’t worry about Jeremiah, in his martyrdom, he has found new life in Christ whom he prefigured. Worry instead for all who conform themselves to the spirit of the age. Being conformed to the age brings death and destruction. History records it, Jesus foretold it and the Church continues His prophetic and redemptive mission by preaching it.

Prophets for our age and human dignity

The Church teaches and promotes the dignity of the human person. “The root reason for human dignity lies in man’s call to communion with God. From the very circumstance of his origin man is already invited to converse with God. For man would not exist were he not created by God’s love and constantly preserved by it; and he cannot live fully according to truth unless he freely acknowledges that love and devotes himself to His Creator.” (*Gaudium et spes* 19.1)

The simple truth spoken of here is that our dignity as human persons derives not from the color of our skin, the nation of our origin, the level of education we have attained, the amount of wealth we have accumulated, the degree of our independence from reliance on others, the economic job we perform, our friends, our family, or any of our talents. Our dignity does not depend upon our health nor our age. Our dignity comes from the God who created us and NO ONE can take that away from us. This is the first principle of the Church’s social doctrine and this demands the absolute respect for the right to life of the individual. This dignity comes from God’s call to each of us to a communion of life with Him, a universal call to holiness.

At the heart of the Church’s insistence on respect for human life and the right to life of the human person is the dignity of the human person. Abortion, euthanasia and other direct attacks on the right to life ignore this simple truth.

In our day, God has sent us prophets – Blessed Pope John Paul II and Blessed Teresa of Calcutta. By their prophetic words and actions, they proclaimed the Culture of Life to those who live in the midst of a culture of death. Mother Teresa proclaimed to America, “Any country that accepts abortion is not teaching its people to love, but to use any violence to get what it wants.” She said, “It is a poverty to decide that a child must die so that you might live as you wish.” John Paul the Great decried the “slaughter of innocent” unborn on a worldwide scale and gave a clarion call to each of us to proclaim a “Gospel of Life.” This is part of the prophetic message of God given to us through His Church. It is an unchanging truth, yet the culture of our age is opposed to it. Some would try to deceive you. They would say that the Church has not always taught this truth; that in

the past, there was great disagreement about abortion. In this way these false prophets would try to justify their sin and mislead you.

Do not be deceived. Do not be conformed to this age. Do not think as man does. Think as God does. Abortion is always the taking of an innocent life and gravely sinful.

To our younger Catholics

To our teens and young adults, let me say, I know how difficult it is for you to be Catholics in this culture. Some might think me too old and far removed from what you face to understand the pressures you face. But that is not so. It is not long ago that I was your age. I came of age during the sexual and drug revolution. I know the pressures you face and the struggles you endure and the uncertainties you feel. And I have personally seen the path of destruction that is the consequence of unwise and unholy choices. And that is why I pray for you each day... always.

There may be times when you may think that no one understands you... but God does. There may be times that you think that no one loves you... but God does. There may be times when you feel close to despair and cannot see your way to the future... but God sees...

God says to you, "Before I formed you in the womb, I knew you... Before you were born, I anointed you... do not despair... be not afraid... do not conform yourself to the spirit of this age... I am your God... I love and cherish you... and I go before you always."

Into the deep...

Deacon Mike Bickerstaff is the Director, Editor in chief and co-founder of the Integrated Catholic Life eMagazine. A Catholic Deacon of the Roman Rite for the Archdiocese of Atlanta, Deacon Mike is assigned to St. Peter Chanel Catholic Church where he is the Director of Adult Education and Evangelization. He is a co-founder of the successful annual Atlanta Catholic Business Conference; the Chaplain of the Atlanta Chapter of the Woodstock Theological Center's Business Conference; and Chaplains to the St. Peter Chanel Business Association and co-founder of the Marriages Are Covenants Ministry This article is made available courtesy of THE INTEGRATED CATHOLIC LIFE.



The First Step of Prudence

Prudence is the virtue that most immediately helps us live our lives on target. When we regret a decision, find ourselves in a sticky situation that was quite avoidable, or just sense our lives are not heading in the right direction, it is often because this foundational cardinal virtue was not at the forefront of our actions.

Called "the charioteer of the virtues" (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, no. 1806), prudence directs all the other virtues, pointing them to their proper end. Without prudence, one's life might look like a horse and chariot running away without a driver—a lot of energy, speed, and commotion, but not going in the right direction.

Prudence entails practical wisdom. It enables us "to discern our true good in every circumstance and to choose the right means of achieving it" (*Catechism*, no. 1806). How well prudence is developed will affect every aspect of our lives. It takes prudence to buy a car or a house and to make a good financial investment. It takes prudence to raise children well, advance one's career, or ask a girl on a date. Prudence is well-ordered reason applied to action, so that we not only know the right thing to do, but also how and when to do it.

There are three key aspects of prudence: counsel, judgment, and decisiveness. Each of these is necessary, but in this reflection, we focus on the first step for prudence: counsel.

Counsel

Have you ever made a decision you wish you could take back? St. Thomas Aquinas reminds us that prudent decisions require counsel, which is the "act of inquiry." This is the first step, in which we gather the information necessary to make a good decision.

For example, when buying a car, it is not wise to show up at a car dealer and purchase the first auto one sees. The prudent man assesses how much money he can spend and what kind of car fits his needs and his budget. He may also test drive different cars, look at consumer reviews, or talk to friends who own the kinds of cars he is considering.

While this might seem like commonsense, many of us make poor decisions that we later regret because we failed to take this first necessary step. We rush into a decision without adequately considering the necessary data. We purchase something spontaneously and later realize we didn't really need it and should have saved the money for something else. We commit our time to some activity and later kick ourselves for it because we should have known our plates were already quite full.

Aquinas calls this defect in counsel "precipitation," which refers to bringing about an action prematurely or hastily. Just as rain and snow fall to the ground, so do we stumble and fall when we fail to take the necessary steps of counsel.

Piano Man

Shortly after we moved into our first home, I dreamed of having a piano for our children. But quickly after looking into piano prices, I knew we could not afford even a used one any time in the near future. Just then, a friend of mine who was moving told me his piano would not fit into his new home. It was an old standing grand piano—a little worn over the years, with one of the keys needing repair, but still in decent condition. He offered to give it to me for free if I helped him transport it out on moving day.

I was ecstatic. I told my 2-year-old daughter Madeleine the good news, and she repeated "Piano! Piano!" with excitement that day. We got up early the next morning to make space in our living room, and I left to go pick it up. Madeleine waved to me from the window, anxiously awaiting her turn of Daddy and the new piano.

My friend and I recruited a few other men to help us load the piano onto a pickup truck. Despite the awkward shape of the standing grand, we got it out of the house and successfully lifted it upright into the truck. We were off to my home, just seven blocks away!

Of course, we drove slowly and carefully as we headed straight east on the first five blocks of our journey. Then, we made our first turn onto Fifth Street and my house came into view.

At that moment, I heard a sound I'll never forget. The noise sounded like someone banging on the piano as we were halfway through the turn. My heart sank. I looked into the review mirror and saw the standing grand piano no longer standing upright. It was falling out of the truck, and there was nothing I could do. In the span of just two or three seconds—which seemed to me like a helpless eternity—I watched in the rear view mirror as the piano fell out of the truck upside down, bounced on the street, and broke into pieces.

In our concern to get the big, odd-sized piano out the front door and onto the truck, we did not think through the remaining steps: We forgot to tie down the piano to the truck! Because we failed to think through the whole process, our family's dreams for a piano were shattered with the standing grand on Fifth Street that day. I came home to my daughter empty-handed, and for the next several weeks, whenever a visitor came to our home, she would walk them over to the spot in our living room where the piano was supposed to reside and say to them, "Piano broke. . . . Piano broke. . . ."

Defects in Counsel

Aquinas mentions three weaknesses that cause precipitous action. The first weakness is impulse. This is when a person gives little thought to a decision and runs with his initial reaction. He fails to think through his course of action. This may concern smaller matters, such as spending a lot more time on the Internet than planned on a given evening or buying a few extra items at the grocery store that were not on the list.

It may affect bigger issues, such as accumulating a lot of debt for things one could not truly afford. The average credit card debt among all American households recently hit \$8,400. Many families find themselves enslaved for years struggling to pay off not only credit cards, but cars, homes, and other items, as they were trying to live beyond their means. Thinking through one's finances and expenses more carefully can save a lot of grief, just as foresight with the piano move would have prevented much heartache in our home.

A second cause of rushed decisions is what Aquinas calls passion—being carried away by our emotions. When we're angry, for example, we say things we later regret. When we're impatient with our kids, we may lose our temper and make things worse. When we're afraid, we often overact to problems and make unwise moves. When a young person falls in love, she may idealize her beloved and not see serious faults that will come back to haunt her.

Are you someone who has a difficult time saying no to others when they ask for something? When we're afraid to say no, various emotions might be at work: We don't want to let other people down, we don't want others to think less of us, we like being the one people turn to for help, we will feel guilty if we turn down certain family members or friends, etc. In our pride, vanity, insecurity, or greed, we have difficulty refusing other people when they come to us with a request, even though saying no may be the most prudent thing for us to do. Heeding others' requests may flow from generosity, but in some cases, it may be the result of disordered emotions dominating our decision-making process, leading us to make poor choices.

Men and Directions

A third cause of poorly-thought-out choices is stubbornness. This fault is not simply forgetting to think things through or making a decision based on one's emotions. The stubborn person deliberately refuses to gather information or take time to weigh a decision. My father, for example, was notorious in our family for getting lost when driving. We now joke about the family vacations when he was lost and did not like admitting so. Like many men, my dad did not want



Bishops Decry HHS Rule, Urge Catholics to Stand Up for Religious Liberty and Conscience Rights in Homilies at Vigil for Life

WASHINGTON—January 23, 2012—Both the president of the U.S. bishops and the bishops' Pro-Life chairman called on the thousands of Catholics gathered for the National Prayer Vigil for Life to speak out for the protection of conscience rights and religious liberty.

“From a human point of view, we may be tempted to surrender, when our government places conception, pregnancy and birth under the ‘center for disease control,’ when chemically blocking conception or aborting the baby in the womb is considered a ‘right’ to be subsidized by others who abhor it,” said Cardinal-designate Timothy Dolan, archbishop of New York and president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) at the vigil’s closing Mass at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception on January 23.

His words referred to the January 20 announcement by the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) that nearly all employers will be forced to cover drugs and procedures that violate their conscience in their health insurance plans.

“When the ability of feeding, housing, and healing the struggling of the world is curtailed and impeded if one does not also help women abort their babies, one can hardly be faulted for being tempted to the ‘sin against the Holy Spirit’ and just consider all as lost,” Cardinal-designate Dolan said.

Addressing the opening Mass the previous evening, Cardinal Daniel DiNardo, archbishop of Galveston-Houston and chairman of the USCCB Committee on Pro-Life Activities, excoriated the HHS rule.

“Never before in our US History has the Federal Government forced citizens to directly purchase what violates our beliefs. At issue here as our President of the Conference stated it this past Friday, is the survival of a cornerstone constitutionally protected freedom that ensures respect for conscience and religious liberty,” said Cardinal DiNardo.

He cited the January 19 address of Pope Benedict XVI to U.S. bishops visiting Rome, in which the pope said, “it is imperative that the entire Catholic community in the United States come to realize the grave threats to the Church’s public moral witness presented by a radical secularism which finds increasing expression in the political and cultural spheres. The seriousness of these threats needs to be appreciated at every level of ecclesial life.”

Cardinal DiNardo said that the pope had “nailed” the issue in light of the HHS announcement and tied the issue directly to the March for Life. “His calls for courage to counter a reductive secularism which would delegitimize the Church’s participation in public life and debate have targeted the issues we face in our pro-life efforts, to defend those who defend human life and to defend their religious liberty!”

The full text of both homilies is available online:

www.usccb.org/about/media-relations/resources/2012-national-prayer-vigil-for-life-homilies.cfm

United States Conference of Catholic Bishops
3211 4th Street, N.E.
Washington, D.C. 20017
(202) 541-3000

www.usccb.org

© USCCB. All rights reserved.



**Unconscionable to force citizens to buy
contraceptives against their will;
No change in limited exemption,
only delay in enforcement;
Matter of freedom of conscience,
freedom of religion**

WASHINGTON—January 20, 2012—The Catholic bishops of the United States called “literally unconscionable” a decision by the Obama Administration to continue to demand that sterilization, abortifacients and contraception be included in virtually all health plans. Today's announcement means that this mandate and its very narrow exemption will not change at all; instead there will only be a delay in enforcement against some employers.

“In effect, the president is saying we have a year to figure out how to violate our consciences,” said Cardinal-designate Timothy M. Dolan, archbishop of New York and president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops.

The cardinal-designate continued, “To force American citizens to choose between violating their consciences and forgoing their healthcare is literally unconscionable. It is as much an attack on access to health care as on religious freedom. Historically this represents a challenge and a compromise of our religious liberty.”

The HHS rule requires that sterilization and contraception – including controversial abortifacients – be included among “preventive services” coverage in almost every healthcare plan available to Americans. “The government should not force Americans to act as if pregnancy is a disease to be prevented at all costs,” added Cardinal-designate Dolan.

At issue, the U.S. bishops and other religious leaders insist, is the survival of a cornerstone constitutionally protected freedom that ensures respect for the conscience of Catholics and all other Americans.

“This is nothing less than a direct attack on religion and First Amendment rights,” said Franciscan Sister Jane Marie Klein, chairperson of the board at Franciscan Alliance, Inc., a system of 13 Catholic hospitals. “I have hundreds of employees who will be upset and confused by this edict. I cannot understand it at all.”

Daughter of Charity Sister Carol Keehan, president and chief executive officer of the Catholic Health Association of the United States, voiced disappointment with the decision. Catholic hospitals serve one out of six people who seek hospital care annually.

“This was a missed opportunity to be clear on appropriate conscience protection,” Sister Keehan said.

Cardinal-designate Dolan urged that the HHS mandate be overturned.

“The Obama administration has now drawn an unprecedented line in the sand,” he said. “The Catholic bishops are committed to working with our fellow Americans to reform the law and change this unjust regulation. We will continue to study all the implications of this troubling decision.

United States Conference of Catholic Bishops
3211 4th Street, N.E.
Washington, D.C. 20017
(202) 541-3000
www.usccb.org

© USCCB. All rights reserved.

FAITH TRADITIONS

Saint Catharine of Siena • 500 South Gould Road • Columbus, Ohio 43209 • (614) 231-4509

Presentation of the Lord ~ Candlemas Day

by Elizabeth Foss

My pastor announced that he will bless candles on **Candlemas Day, February 2**. Now, my only challenge is finding a box big enough to carry our candles to church to be blessed. This feast, so rich and sensory, is a true treasure, nearly lost to modern times.

I am just beginning to understand how the candles of Candlemas are inextricably tied to the Feast of the Presentation. My dear friend Donna is such a good listener. I think that she is especially blessed with this virtue because she has suffered so in her lifetime. She was widowed very young and has since cared for her aging mother. Whenever I go to her to sort my own trials, she prays with me on the phone. And then, she promises to "light a candle." She almost always has a prayer candle lit, I think.

When Our Lady took Jesus to the temple and Simeon greeted them, he recognized the light first. He said that Jesus was "the light for revelation to the Gentiles, and glory for your people Israel." Then, he told the Blessed Mother that she would suffer: "Behold, this child is destined for the fall and rise of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be contradicted and you yourself a sword will pierce so that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed."

She did not understand but she did know that she knew the Light, the Lord, was hers in her suffering. When we suffer, we turn to the Lord, who came as light and life to the world. And we can light a candle to remind us of those words of Simeon who coupled forever the suffering with the Light. What beautiful sacramental candles can be in the domestic church!

I've always loved candles; I am drawn to light and beauty. In candlelight, the hard edges of the world are softened. Now, I feel drawn to them as I'm drawn to prayer. Christ settles over the candlelit room and softens the edges of the harsh world while illuminating my soul with His holy will. We appeal to our senses when we prepare our homes with candles to use throughout the year. For many years, my family has enjoyed advent candles. My children like to light them, like to snuff them, like to sing about lighting them. Those pink and purple tapers bring the liturgical year to light every night at our dinner table and I'm always sad to put them away. They are replaced right after advent with gold candles for the Christmas feast, but when that season ends, there are no candles on our table.

This year, I decided to buy some blue pillar candles for the table for the Feast of Mary, the Mother of God. I was so pleased with this new tradition (just once and it's a tradition), that I started thinking about how we could bring the liturgical year to our table all year 'round. Combined with traditional prayers keyed to the calendar, the candles would be a visual reminder of the life of Christ in the Church.

Finally, I stocked up on beeswax votive candles. These are sweet smelling candles that I will light when I offer my prayers for friends and family. And I ordered an extra box for Donna — I figure I've used at least that many in her house over the years.

Elizabeth Foss is a freelance writer. This article is reprinted with permission, courtesy of THE CATHOLIC HERALD – the newspaper of the Diocese of Arlington, Virginia.

Bring your candles used in the home for religious purposes (e.g. votive candles) and place them at the front of the sanctuary to be blessed at the *beginning* of the 8 a.m. Mass on February 2.

FAITH TRADITIONS

Saint Catharine of Siena • 500 South Gould Road • Columbus, Ohio 43209 • (614) 231-4509

Throat Blessing on the Feast of Saint Blaise

by Fr. William Saunders

QUESTION: As a child, I remember having my throat blessed on the Feast of St. Blaise. I was never too sure who he was or why we did this. Also, it seems like the practice has been forgotten. Are throats still blessed on this Feast day?

Unfortunately, what is known about the life of St. Blaise derives from various traditions. His feast day is celebrated in the East on February 11 and in the West on **February 3** (although it was observed on February 15 until the 11th century). All sources agree that St. Blaise was the Bishop of Sebaste in Armenia who suffered martyrdom under Licinius about the year 316. (Remember that Emperor Constantine had legalized the practice of Christianity in 313, but Licinius, his ally and co-emperor who had concurred in legalizing Christianity, betrayed him and began persecuting the Church. Constantine defeated Licinius in 324.) From here, we rely on the tradition which has been associated with our liturgical celebrations over the centuries, which does not necessarily preempt their veracity or accuracy.

In accord with various traditions, St. Blaise was born to rich and noble parents, and received a Christian education. He was a physician before being consecrated a bishop at a young age. Although such a statement seems terse, keep in mind that at that time the local community usually nominated a man to be a bishop based on his outstanding holiness and leadership qualities. He in turn was then examined and consecrated by other bishops with the approval of the Holy Father. Therefore, St. Blaise must have been a great witness of our faith to say the least.

During the persecution of Licinius, St. Blaise, receiving some divine command, moved from the town and lived as a hermit in a cave. Wild animals visited, and he healed any that were sick and wounded. One day, a group of hunters gathering wild beasts for the game in the amphitheater discovered St. Blaise and seized him. As he was being taken to the governor Agricolaus, the governor of Cappadocia and Lesser Armenia, St. Blaise encountered a woman whose pig was being seized by a wolf. St. Blaise commanded the wolf to release the pig, and it was freed unhurt.

While in prison, he miraculously cured a small boy who was choking to death on a fishbone lodged in his throat. Also, the woman whose pig had been saved brought St. Blaise candles so that his cell would have light and he could read the Sacred Scriptures.

Eventually, Agricolaus condemned St. Blaise for upholding his Christian faith rather than apostatizing. He was tortured with the iron comb (an instrument designed for combing wool which was used here for shredding the skin) and finally beheaded.

By the sixth century, St. Blaise's intercession was invoked for diseases of the throat in the East. As early as the eighth century, records attest to the veneration of St. Blaise in Europe, and he became one of the most popular saints in the spiritual life of the Middle Ages. Many altars were dedicated to his honor, and even the Abbey of St. Blaise in southern Germany claimed to have some of his relics. St. Blaise is also venerated as one of the "Fourteen Holy Helpers," a group of saints invoked as early as the 12th century in Germany and who are honored on Aug. 8: St. Denis of Paris (headache and rabies), St. Erasmus or Elmo (colic and cramp), St. Blaise (throat ailments), St. Barbara (lightning,



fire, explosion, and sudden and unprepared death), St. Margaret (possession and pregnancy), St. Catherine of Alexandria (philosophers and students, and wheelwrights), St. George (protector of soldiers), Sts. Achatius and Eustace (hunters), St. Pantaleon (tuberculosis), St. Giles (epilepsy, insanity, and sterility), St. Cyriac (demonic possession), St. Vitus (epilepsy) and St. Christopher (travelers). The German Dominicans promoted this veneration, particularly at the Church of St. Blaise in Regensburg (c. 1320).

One reason for St. Blaise's popularity arose from the fact he was a physician who cured, even performing miraculous cures. Thereby, those who were sick, especially with throat ailments, invoked his intercession. Eventually the custom of the blessing of throats arose, whereby the priest held two crossed candles over the heads of the faithful or touched their throats with them while he invoked the prayer of the saint and imparted God's blessing. In our present Roman Ritual, the priest prays, "Through the intercession of St. Blaise, bishop and martyr, may God deliver you from every disease of the throat and from every other illness, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit." This practice continues in many parishes on St. Blaise's feast day.

While we invoke St. Blaise for his protection against any physical ailment of the throat, we should also ask his protection against any spiritual ailment—profanity, cursing, unkind remarks, detraction, or gossip. St. James reminds us, "If a man who does not control his tongue imagines that he is devout, he is self-deceived; his worship is pointless," (1:26) and later, "we use [the tongue] to say, 'Praised be the Lord and Father', then we use it to curse men, though they are made in the likeness of God. Blessing and curse come out of the same mouth. This ought not to be, my brothers!" (3:9-10). Therefore, may St. Blaise protect us from all evil, physical and spiritual, which may attack the throat.

Fr. Saunders is a professor of catechetics and theology at Notre Dame Graduate School in Alexandria, Virginia. His new book is entitled Straight Answers. This article is reprinted with permission, courtesy of THE CATHOLIC HERALD – the newspaper of the Diocese of Arlington, Virginia.

+ + +

PRAYER IN HONOR OF SAINT BLAISE

O God, deliver us through the intercession of Thy holy bishop and martyr Blaise, from all evil of soul and body, especially from all ills of the throat; and grant us the grace to make a good confession in the confident hope of obtaining Thy pardon, and ever to praise with worthy lips Thy most holy name. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

+ + +

**Because of the First Friday Adoration
which begins at the close of the 8:00 a.m. Mass,
the Blessing of Throats will take place at
Saint Catharine of Siena Parish
on Friday, February 3rd,
prior to the 8:00 a.m. Mass.
Arrive early if you wish to have your throat blessed.**

Second Quarter Honor and Merit Rolls 2011-2012 Academic Year

Congratulations to our parishioners who made the Honor and Merit Rolls at St. Charles Preparatory School. Students listed on the Honor Roll have achieved a grade point average of 3.50 or better on a 4.0 grading scale; students listed on the Merit Roll achieved a grade point average between 3.00 and 3.49; students who received a grade point of 4.0 and above are also noted (4.0+).

Kyle Adkin, Grade 11 ~ Honor, 4.0+
 John Galden, Grade 11 ~ Honor, 4.0+
 Philip Kebe, Grade 11 ~ Honor, 4.0+
 Thomas Krajnak, Grade 11 ~ Honor, 4.0+
 Russell Bateman, Grade 11 ~ Honor
 Andrew DiNapoli, Grade 9 ~ Honor
 William Gianakopoulos, Jr, Grade 10 ~ Honor
 Benjamin Hale, Grade 10 ~ Honor
 Aaron Kebe, Grade 9 ~ Honor
 Daniel Krajnak, Grade 11 ~ Honor
 Joshua Kravitz, Grade 9 ~ Honor
 Daniel Mackessy, Grade 9 ~ Honor
 Conor Manley, Grade 11 ~ Honor
 Elliott Narcross, Grade 10 ~ Honor
 Sean O'Donnell, Grade 10 ~ Honor
 Conor Quinlan, Grade 9 ~ Honor
 Patrick Quinlan, Grade 11 ~ Honor



John Quinn, Grade 10 ~ Honor
 Henry Sarko, Grade 9 ~ Honor
 Oliver Sarko, Grade 11 ~ Honor
 Richard Stranges III, Grade 11 ~ Honor
 Kevin Summers, Grade 10 ~ Honor
 Nicholas Tylka, Grade 9 ~ Honor
 Christian Adkin, Grade 9 ~ Merit
 Jason Adkin, Grade 10 ~ Merit
 Joshua Adkin, Grade 10 ~ Merit
 Daniel Burkhart, Grade 10 ~ Merit
 Cameron Cooke, Grade 11 ~ Merit
 Nicholas Crossman, Grade 10 ~ Merit
 Isaac Kebe, Grade 12 ~ Merit
 John Massinople, Grade 9 ~ Merit
 Connor Mentel, Grade 10 ~ Merit
 Christopher Sharp, Grade 10 ~ Merit
 Clayton Tylka, Grade 11 ~ Merit

Congratulations to our parishioners who made the Honor and Merit Rolls at Bishop Hartley High School. Students listed on the Honor Roll have achieved a grade point average of 3.50 or better on a 4.0 grading scale.

Sarah Endress, Grade 12
 Catherine Gregory, Grade 12
 Mary Kelley, Grade 12
 Amber Krieger, Grade 12
 Ogechukwu Mora, Grade 12
 Julianne Schmitz, Grade 12
 Abigail Selid, Grade 12
 Michelle Summers, Grade 12
 Katelin Thivener, Grade 12
 Anthony Allwein, Grade 11
 Victoria Barlay, Grade 11
 Dory Cassidy, Grade 11
 Hannah Hostetler, Grade 11
 Clare Kossler, Grade 11
 Molly Mackessy, Grade 11
 Kathleen Quinn, Grade 11
 Megan Ryan, Grade 11
 Sara Sweeney, Grade 11
 Ellen Huggins, Grade 10
 Jessica Long, Grade 10
 Austin Mauk, Grade 10



Mary Grace Palmer, Grade 10
 Rachael Santee, Grade 10
 Anna Seastone, Grade 10
 Sarah Smith, Grade 10
 Tiffany Steel, Grade 10
 Jamie Thivener, Grade 10
 Allie Wills, Grade 10
 Colin Baumann, Grade 9
 Madeline Brandewie, Grade 9
 Kevin Krieger, Grade 9
 Patrick Lawrence, Grade 9
 Cameron Macioce, Grade 9
 Jacob McComis, Grade 9
 Victoria Pasini, Grade 9
 Hailey Sammons, Grade 9
 Kaitlyn Schweitzer, Grade 9
 Samantha Schweitzer, Grade 9
 Rebekah Selid, Grade 9
 Caroline Young, Grade 9
 Cassandra Zamaripa, Grade 9

Lectio Divina

DAILY SCRIPTURE READING + MEDITATION + PRAYER + CONTEMPLATION

SAINT CATHARINE OF SIENA ▪ 500 SOUTH GOULD ROAD ▪ COLUMBUS, OHIO 43209 ▪ (614) 231-4509

"Enjoy yourself as much as you like – if only you keep from sin." --Saint John Bosco

Monday, January 30 ~ Fourth Week in Ordinary Time

Holy Gospel: Mark 5:1-20 Jesus and his disciples came to the other side of the sea, to the territory of the Gerasenes. When he got out of the boat, at once a man from the tombs who had an unclean spirit met him. The man had been dwelling among the tombs, and no one could restrain him any longer, even with a chain. In fact, he had frequently been bound with shackles and chains, but the chains had been pulled apart by him and the shackles smashed, and no one was strong enough to subdue him. Night and day among the tombs and on the hillsides he was always crying out and bruising himself with stones. Catching sight of Jesus from a distance, he ran up and prostrated himself before him, crying out in a loud voice, "What have you to do with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I adjure you by God, do not torment me!" (He had been saying to him, "Unclean spirit, come out of the man!") He asked him, "What is your name?" He replied, "Legion is my name. There are many of us." And he pleaded earnestly with him not to drive them away from that territory. Now a large herd of swine was feeding there on the hillside. And they pleaded with him, "Send us into the swine. Let us enter them." And he let them, and the unclean spirits came out and entered the swine. The herd of about two thousand rushed down a steep bank into the sea, where they were drowned. The swineherds ran away and reported the incident in the town and throughout the countryside. And people came out to see what had happened. As they approached Jesus, they caught sight of the man who had been possessed by Legion, sitting there clothed and in his right mind. And they were seized with fear. Those who witnessed the incident explained to them what had happened to the possessed man and to the swine. Then they began to beg him to leave their district. As he was getting into the boat, the man who had been possessed pleaded to remain with him. But Jesus would not permit him but told him instead, "Go home to your family and announce to them all that the Lord in his pity has done for you." Then the man went off and began to proclaim in the Decapolis what Jesus had done for him; and all were amazed.

Meditation: Jesus took pity on the man who was overtaken by a legion of evil spirits. The destructive force of these demons is evident for all who can see as they flee and destroy a herd of swine. After Jesus freed the demoniac the whole city came out to meet him. No one had demonstrated such power and authority against the forces of Satan as Jesus did. They feared Jesus as a result and begged him to leave them. Why would they not want Jesus to stay? Perhaps the price for such liberation from the power of evil and sin was more than they wanted to pay. Jesus is ready and willing to free us from anything that binds us and that keeps us from the love of God. Are you willing to part with such things?

Prayer: Grant us, Lord our God, that we may honor you with all our mind, and love everyone in truth of heart. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.

Contemplation: A legion is no small force — but an army 6,000 strong! For the people of Palestine, hemmed in by occupied forces, a legion, whether spiritual or human, struck terror! Legions at their wildest committed unmentionable atrocities. Our age has also witnessed untold crimes and mass destruction at the hands of possessed rulers and their armies. What is more remarkable — the destructive force of this driven and possessed man? Or the bended knee at Jesus' feet imploring mercy and release? God's word reminds us that no destructive force can keep anyone from the peace and safety which God offers to those who seek his help. "A thousand may fall at your side, ten thousand at your right hand; but it will not come near you...Because you have made the Lord your refuge" (Psalm 91:7,9).

Tuesday, January 31 ~ Fourth Week in Ordinary Time
Saint John Bosco, Priest ~ Founder of the Salesian Society

Holy Gospel: Mark 5:21-43 When Jesus had crossed again in the boat to the other side, a large crowd gathered around him, and he stayed close to the sea. One of the synagogue officials, named Jairus, came

forward. Seeing him he fell at his feet and pleaded earnestly with him, saying, "My daughter is at the point of death. Please, come lay your hands on her that she may get well and live." He went off with him and a large crowd followed him. There was a woman afflicted with hemorrhages for twelve years. She had suffered greatly at the hands of many doctors and had spent all that she had. Yet she was not helped but only grew worse. She had heard about Jesus and came up behind him in the crowd and touched his cloak. She said, "If I but touch his clothes, I shall be cured." Immediately her flow of blood dried up. She felt in her body that she was healed of her affliction. Jesus, aware at once that power had gone out from him, turned around in the crowd and asked, "Who has touched my clothes?" But his disciples said to him, "You see how the crowd is pressing upon you, and yet you ask, Who touched me?" And he looked around to see who had done it. The woman, realizing what had happened to her, approached in fear and trembling. She fell down before Jesus and told him the whole truth. He said to her, "Daughter, your faith has saved you. Go in peace and be cured of your affliction." While he was still speaking, people from the synagogue official's house arrived and said, "Your daughter has died; why trouble the teacher any longer?" Disregarding the message that was reported, Jesus said to the synagogue official, "Do not be afraid; just have faith." He did not allow anyone to accompany him inside except Peter, James, and John, the brother of James. When they arrived at the house of the synagogue official, he caught sight of a commotion, people weeping and wailing loudly. So he went in and said to them, "Why this commotion and weeping? The child is not dead but asleep." And they ridiculed him. Then he put them all out. He took along the child's father and mother and those who were with him and entered the room where the child was. He took the child by the hand and said to her, "Talitha kum" which means, "Little girl, I say to you, arise!" The girl, a child of twelve, arose immediately and walked around. At that they were utterly astounded. He gave strict orders that no one should know this and said that she should be given something to eat.

Meditation: People in desperate or helpless circumstances were not disappointed when they sought Jesus out. What drew them to Jesus? Was it hope for a miracle or a word of comfort in their affliction? What did the elderly woman who had suffered greatly for twelve years expect Jesus to do for her? And what did a grieving father expect Jesus to do about his beloved lost daughter? Jesus gave hope where there seemed to be no human cause for it because his hope was directed to God. He spoke words of hope to the woman (Take heart, daughter!) to ignite the spark of faith in her (your faith has made you well!).

Prayer: O God, who raised up the Priest Saint John Bosco as a father and teacher of the young, grant we pray, that, aflame with the same fire of love, we may seek out souls and serve you alone. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.

Contemplation: Saint Ephrem of Syria commented on this miracle: "Glory to you, hidden Son of God, because your healing power is proclaimed through the hidden suffering of the afflicted woman. Through this woman whom they could see, the witnesses were enabled to behold the divinity that cannot be seen. Through the Son's own healing power his divinity became known. Through the afflicted woman's being healed her faith was made manifest. She caused him to be proclaimed, and indeed was honored with him. For truth was being proclaimed together with its heralds. If she was a witness to his divinity, he in turn was a witness to her faith...He saw through to her hidden faith, and gave her a visible healing." In Jesus we see the infinite love of God extending to each and every individual as he gives freely and wholly of himself to each person he meets. Do you approach the Lord with confident expectation that he will hear your request and act?

Wednesday, February 1 ~ Fourth Week in Ordinary Time

Holy Gospel: Mark 6:1-6 Jesus departed from there and came to his native place, accompanied by his disciples. When the Sabbath came he began to teach in the synagogue, and many who heard him were astonished. They said, "Where did this man get all this? What kind of wisdom has been given him? What mighty deeds are wrought by his hands! Is he not the carpenter, the son of Mary, and the brother of James and Joseph and Judas and Simon? And are not his sisters here with us?" And they took offense at him. Jesus said to them, "A prophet is not without honor except in his native place and among his own kin and in his own house." So he was not able to perform any mighty deed there, apart from curing a few sick people by laying his hands on them. He was amazed at their lack of faith.

Meditation: Jesus startled his familiar audience with a seeming rebuke that no prophet or servant of God can receive honor among his own people. The people of Nazareth took offense at Jesus and refused to listen to what he had to say. They despised his preaching because he was a mere workman, a carpenter, and a layman who had no formal training by a scholar or teacher. They also despised him because of his

undistinguished family background. How familiarity can breed contempt. Jesus could do no mighty works in their midst because they were closed-minded and unbelieving towards him.

Prayer: Grant us, Lord our God, that we may honor you with all our mind, and love everyone in truth of heart. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.

Contemplation: The word "gospel" literally means "good news." Isaiah had prophesied that the Messiah would come in the power of the Holy Spirit to bring freedom to the afflicted who suffered from physical, mental, or spiritual oppression (see Isaiah 61:1-2). Jesus came to set people free – not only from their physical, mental, and spiritual infirmities - but also from the worst affliction of all – the tyranny of slavery to sin, Satan, and the fear of losing one's life. God's power alone can save us from hopelessness, dejection, and emptiness of life. The gospel of salvation is "good news" for everyone who will receive it. Do you know, live and experience the joy and freedom of the gospel?

Thursday, February 2 ~ Fourth Week in Ordinary Time **Feast of the Presentation of the Lord**

Holy Gospel: Luke 2:22-40 When the days were completed for their purification according to the law of Moses, Mary and Joseph took Jesus up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord, just as it is written in the law of the Lord, Every male that opens the womb shall be consecrated to the Lord, and to offer the sacrifice of a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons, in accordance with the dictate in the law of the Lord. Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon. This man was righteous and devout, awaiting the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he should not see death before he had seen the Christ of the Lord. He came in the Spirit into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus to perform the custom of the law in regard to him, he took him into his arms and blessed God, saying: "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, and glory for your people Israel." The child's father and mother were amazed at what was said about him; and Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, "Behold, this child is destined for the fall and rise of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be contradicted and you yourself a sword will pierce so that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed." There was also a prophetess, Anna, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was advanced in years, having lived seven years with her husband after her marriage, and then as a widow until she was eighty-four. She never left the temple, but worshiped night and day with fasting and prayer. And coming forward at that very time, she gave thanks to God and spoke about the child to all who were awaiting the redemption of Jerusalem. When they had fulfilled all the prescriptions of the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon him.

Meditation: Simeon was a just and devout man who was very much in tune with the Holy Spirit. He believed that the Lord would return to his temple and renew his chosen people. The Holy Spirit also revealed to him that the Messiah and King of Israel would also bring salvation to the Gentile nations. When Joseph and Mary presented the baby Jesus in the temple, Simeon immediately recognized this humble child of Bethlehem as the fulfillment of all the messianic prophecies, hopes, and prayers. Inspired by the Holy Spirit he prophesied that Jesus was to be "a revealing light to the Gentiles." There is a certain paradox for those blessed by the Lord. Mary was given the blessedness of being the mother of the Son of God. That blessedness also would become a sword which pierced her heart as her Son died upon the cross. She received both a crown of joy and a cross of sorrow. But her joy was not diminished by her sorrow because it was fueled by her faith, hope, and trust in God and his promises.

Prayer: Almighty ever-living God, we humbly implore your majesty that, just as your Only Begotten Son was presented on this day in the Temple in the substance of our flesh, so, by your grace, we may be presented to you with minds made pure. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.

Contemplation: Simeon was not alone in recognizing the Lord's presence in the temple. Anna, too, was filled with the Holy Spirit. She was found daily in the temple, attending to the Lord in prayer and speaking prophetically to others about God's promise to send a redeemer. Supernatural hope grows with prayer and age! Anna was pre-eminently a woman of great hope and expectation that God would fulfill all his promises. She is a model of godliness to all believers as we advance in age. Advancing age and the disappointments of life can easily make us cynical and hopeless if we do not have our hope placed rightly.

Anna's hope in God and his promises grew with age. She never ceased to worship God in faith and to pray with hope. Her hope and faith in God's promises fueled her indomitable zeal and fervor in prayer and service of God's people. What do you hope for? The hope which God places in our heart is the desire for the kingdom of heaven and eternal life as our happiness. How do we grow in hope? By placing our trust in the promises of Jesus Christ and relying not on our own strength, but on the grace and help of the Holy Spirit. Does your hope and fervor for God grow with age?

Friday, February 3 ~ Fourth Week in Ordinary Time Saint Blaise, Bishop and Martyr

Holy Gospel: Mark 6:14-29 King Herod heard about Jesus, for his fame had become widespread, and people were saying, "John the Baptist has been raised from the dead; That is why mighty powers are at work in him." Others were saying, "He is Elijah"; still others, "He is a prophet like any of the prophets." But when Herod learned of it, he said, "It is John whom I beheaded. He has been raised up." Herod was the one who had John arrested and bound in prison on account of Herodias, the wife of his brother Philip, whom he had married. John had said to Herod, "It is not lawful for you to have your brother's wife." Herodias harbored a grudge against him and wanted to kill him but was unable to do so. Herod feared John, knowing him to be a righteous and holy man, and kept him in custody. When he heard him speak he was very much perplexed, yet he liked to listen to him. Herodias had an opportunity one day when Herod, on his birthday, gave a banquet for his courtiers, his military officers, and the leading men of Galilee. His own daughter came in and performed a dance that delighted Herod and his guests. The king said to the girl, "Ask of me whatever you wish and I will grant it to you." He even swore many things to her, "I will grant you whatever you ask of me, even to half of my kingdom." She went out and said to her mother, "What shall I ask for?" Her mother replied, "The head of John the Baptist." The girl hurried back to the king's presence and made her request, "I want you to give me at once on a platter the head of John the Baptist." The king was deeply distressed, but because of his oaths and the guests he did not wish to break his word to her. So he promptly dispatched an executioner with orders to bring back his head. He went off and beheaded him in the prison. He brought in the head on a platter and gave it to the girl. The girl in turn gave it to her mother. When his disciples heard about it, they came and took his body and laid it in a tomb.

Meditation: When Herod heard the fame of Jesus he supposed that John the Baptist, whom he had beheaded, had returned from the dead. Unfortunately for Herod, he could not rid himself of sin by ridding himself of the man who confronted him with his sin. Herod was a weak man. He could take a strong stand on the wrong things when he knew the right. Such a stand, however, was a sign of weakness and cowardice. The Lord gives grace to the humble, to those who acknowledge their sins and who seek God's mercy and pardon. His grace and pardon not only frees us from a guilty conscience, it enables us to pursue holiness in thought and action as well. God's grace enables us to fight fear with faith and to overcome the temptation to compromise goodness and truth with wrongdoing and falsehood.

Prayer: Hear, O Lord, the supplications your people make under the patronage of the Martyr Saint Blaise, and grant that they may rejoice in peace in this present life, and find help for life eternal. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.

Contemplation: Every person has at one time or another been haunted by a guilty conscience. King Herod, the most powerful and wealthy man in Judea, had everything he wanted, except a clear conscience and peace with God. Herod had respected and feared John the Baptist as a great prophet and servant of God. John, however did not fear to rebuke Herod for his adulterous relationship with his brother's wife. John ended up in prison because of Herodias' jealousy. Herod, out of impulse and a desire to please his family and friends, had John beheaded. Now Herod's conscience is pricked when he hears that some think that the Baptist has risen. Do you rely on God's grace and help to choose his way of holiness and to reject whatever would compromise your faith and loyalty to Christ?

Scripture passages (NAB translation) courtesy of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops;
prayers are from *The Roman Missal*, Catholic Book Publishing, 2011;
information about saints, solemnities, feasts and memorials courtesy of the Catholic Culture web site.

frlumpe:2012

OFFERTORY – January 21/22

157 Envelopes	\$7,788.98
Loose checks & cash	\$1,731.33
EFT	\$5,521.70
Less 5%	<u>\$(752.10)</u>
Net	\$14,289.91

THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING YOUR PARISH!

SAINT VINCENT DE PAUL: For the month of **FEBRUARY**, we encourage parishioners to provide **Pasta** for the Food Pantry.

Saint Catharine of Siena School thanks
George & Laurie Haenszel
for supporting our school by being a
PARTNER IN EDUCATION

APPALACHIAN PROJECT: Are you curious about what really happens each summer when 75 youth and adults spend a week repairing and rebuilding homes in Scioto County? Come see the photos and videos and listen to the stories about the Appalachian Project experiences from our youth and adult participants. Please join past and present participants of the annual St. Catharine—Christ the King Appalachian Project at an Appreciation Fundraiser at St. Catharine Church Undercroft, on Sunday, January 29th from 3:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. to benefit disadvantaged families in rural Scioto County. Come support our youth, enjoy Appalachian Apple Crisp and the opportunity to win over \$1,000.00 in raffle prizes. If you are unable to join us, please fill out the contribution form inserted in the bulletin. On behalf of the Appalachian Project Volunteers and the families that we help in rebuilding and repairing their homes, we thank you for your prayers and your financial support.

SATURDAYS WITH OUR LADY-The next session will be on February 4th from 3:00-4:30 p.m. Please call the Parish Office (231-4509, M-F 9:00-5:00) by Thursday, Feb. 2, to register. All elementary age children are invited to join us for prayer, stories of Mary, crafts and music!

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL members will be at the doors this weekend, January 28-29, for the quarterly collection. Since our last collection, we have been able to respond to requests for utilities, rent, food and clothing. We have served over 1,000 people with food through St. Lawrence Haven and our week day food deliveries, and have made over 50 home visits. Because of your generosity, we were able to deliver food and gifts to more families at Christmas. As our requests continue to increase, we are thankful for the love and support of the St. Catharine community. *THANK YOU!*

PARISH ACTIVITIES

Monday, January 30

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK

2:30 p.m. - SCRIP orders due in the office

7:00 p.m. - Bingo - Undercroft

Tuesday, January 31

7:00 p.m. - Choir Practice - Church

7:30 p.m. - Boy Scouts - Undercroft

Wednesday, February 1

7:00 p.m. - Bingo - Undercroft

7:00 p.m. - RCIA - School Library

Thursday, February 2

6:30 p.m. - Weekly Holy Hour - Church

Friday, February 3

8:30 a.m. - First Friday Holy Hour - Church

Saturday, February 4

8:00 a.m. - Mass - Church

8:30 a.m. - Fatima Devotion/Rosary - Church

4:00 p.m. - Reconciliation - Church

5:00 p.m. - Mass - Church

Sunday, February 5

8:30 a.m. - Mass - Church

9:30 a.m. - Religious Ed. - School & Undercroft

9:30 a.m. - Blood Pressure Checks - Recon. Room

9:30 a.m. - Coffee & Donuts - Undercroft

9:45 a.m. - KofC Meeting - Undercroft

11:00 a.m. - Mass - Church

12:00 a.m. - Coffee & Donuts - Undercroft

12:00 a.m. - Baptism Class - Undercroft

5:00 p.m. - Mass - Church

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTER TRAINING – Two training sessions will be offered on Sunday, February 12th. Please plan to attend either the 9:30 a.m. or the 3:45 p.m. session. We hope to train our current 9th grade students and anyone else in the Parish who is considering this ministry. Please call the Parish Office at 231-4509 to let us know that you will be attending.

ST. CATHARINE CLASS OF 1962 REUNION – A 50th year class reunion is being planned for later this year. Contact information for class members is being sought. If you are a member, or have information about one, please contact John Farley, 2552 Bexley Park Rd., 237-7316 or farley.john7@gmail.com.

GOLDEN AGE CLUB –Let's celebrate Valentine's Day the old-fashioned way—we'll have lunch at the Berwick Party House, a time honored local restaurant. The date is Monday, Feb. 13th. We'll leave St. Catharine parking lot at 10:30 a.m. as usual. Please send your check payable to the Golden Age Club for \$8 (for bus fare) to Jean Babbitt, 135 N. Ardmore Rd., Bexley, 43209, by Feb.9th. You will pay for your own lunch.

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SAFETY OF OUR SERVICE MEN AND WOMEN

- **Capt. Harry Campbell, U.S. Army:** *Deployed to Afghanistan*
- **Maj. Kurt Distelzweig, U.S. Air Force:** *Stationed at Spangdahlem AFB, Germany*
- **Lt. Commander Jason Endress, U.S. Navy:** *Stationed in Norfolk, VA*
- **First Lt. Jeffrey Groom, U.S. Marines:** *Stationed in Milton, FL*
- **Airman First Class Ellen Gruesen, U.S. Air Force:** *Stationed in Charleston, SC*
- **Lt. Nicolaus Gruesen, U.S. Navy:** *Stationed at Naval Air Station, Atsugi, Japan*
- **Specialist Timothy Gruesen, U.S. Army Reserves**
- **Maj. Matt Lampke, U.S. Army:** *Recently returned from duty in Iraq*
- **Lance Cpl. Mary Loy, U.S. Marines:** *Stationed in Okinawa*
- **Cpl. Mathew Loy, U.S. Marines:** *Deployed to the Mediterranean*
- **Lance Cpl. William Loy, U.S. Marines:** *Recently returned from Afghanistan*
- **Senior Airman Michael Masys, U.S. Air Force:** *Stationed in Omaha, NE*
- **Maj. Michael McCarthy, U.S. Marines:** *Deployed to the Mediterranean*
- **Maj. Sean McCarthy, U.S. Army National Guard Reserve:** *Being deployed to Afghanistan*
- **Pvt. Matthew Maynard, U.S. Army:** *Deployed to Afghanistan*
- **Pvt. First Class Derek Sharkey, U.S. Army:** *Deployed to Afghanistan*
- **Pvt. First Class Paul Snyder, U.S. Army:** *Being deployed to Afghanistan*
- **Capt. Carl Subler, U.S. Army – Chaplain:** *Priest of Columbus; Fort Leonard Wood, MO*



A PRAYER FOR THE SAFETY OF OUR SERVICE MEN AND WOMEN: Almighty and eternal God, as these soldiers discharge their duties in service to their country, please keep them safe from all evil and harm and protect them in your loving care. Enable them to return home safely, that with all who love them, they may ever praise You. We pray this through Christ Your Son. Amen.

PLEASE PATRONIZE THE ADVERTISERS WHO MAKE OUR BULLETIN POSSIBLE AT NO COST TO THE PARISH