

February 1 – Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time



All were amazed and asked one another, "What is this? A new teaching with authority. He commands even the unclean spirits and they obey him." His fame spread everywhere throughout the whole region of Galilee. — Mk 1:27-28
Scissors from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1979 CCD

LITURGY

MASS INTENTIONS & READINGS

Sunday, Feb. 1 (Dt 18:15-20/1 Cor 7:32-35/Mk 1:21-28)

8:00 am- Tyler Bludau
10:30 am- Our Parish Family

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

7:00 am- Dorothy & Douglas Mertz
10:00 am- Pete Brom Family, Benefactors (H'ville Rehab)

Tuesday, February 3, St. Blaise, Bishop & Martyr; St. Ansgar, Bishop (Heb 12:1-4/Mk 5:21-43)

7:00 am- William & Ilene Pastucha

Wednesday, February 4 (Heb 12:4-7, 11-15/Mk 6:1-6)

7:00 am- Buster & Anne Hale
8:05 am- Annie Mae Pesek

Thursday, February 5, St. Agatha, Virgin & Martyr (Heb 12:18-19, 21-24/Mk 6:7-13)

7:00 am- Louis & Stazie Haas
10:00 am- Henrietta Fabian & Alice Kleiber, Benefactors (Stevens)

Friday, February 6, St. Paul Miki & Companions, Martyrs (Heb 13:1-8/Mk 6:14-29)

7:00 am- Mass of Thanksgiving - Bill & Fran Byrd's 50th Anniversary
8:05 am- Victor & Christine Rivera

Saturday, Feb. 7 (Heb 13:15-17, 20-21/Mk 6:30-34)

5:30 pm- Living & deceased members of George & Apolena Bujnoch Family

Sunday, February 8, Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time (Jb 7:1-4, 6-7/1 Cor 9:16-19, 22-23/Mk 1:29-39)

8:00 am- Josephine Janak
10:30 am- Our Parish Family

Bulletin Sponsor: Matthew, Martha & John Bludau.

Radio Broadcast: In memory of James & Grace Liska.

Vigil Light: Special intention for employment.

Our Gift to God: Envelopes-\$5,421.50; Manna Food Pantry-\$1,502; Church in Latin America-\$388; Loose-\$1,305; Children-\$40.

Please pray for the repose of the soul of *Frances Turk*, sister of Mary Migl. *May she rest in the peace of Christ.*

Contribution Statements for 2014 are available upon request. Please contact your CPA or tax preparer to determine if a statement is needed for tax purposes. If one is required, please call the Rectory.

Please pray for vocations to the priesthood & religious life!



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 2

-Sacred Heart Federal Credit Union Annual Meeting, K.C. Hall. Registration 6 pm. Meeting 6:30 pm, followed by meal. All members invited to attend. There is no charge.
-Cantors & Organists Meeting, 6:00-7:30 p.m., Church.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 3

-Quilting Circle, 9:00 a.m., K.C. Hall of Fame Room.
-Knights of Columbus General Meeting, 7:30 p.m.
-P.I. Classes, 9:30-11:30 a.m. & 7-9 p.m., Family Center.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 4

-CCD: K-12th Grade, 6:00-7:30 p.m.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 5

-First Friday Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament begins 6:00 p.m., Church. *Intention: For married couples, especially those having marital problems and for all families to be strengthened in their commitment to each other and to God.*

-Holy Hour for priestly vocations, 7:00 p.m., Church.
-RCIA Class, 7:00-8:30 p.m., SHCS New Computer Lab.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 6

-CDA Adoration, 5:00-6:00 p.m., Church.
-First Friday Benediction, 6:00 p.m., Church.



SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 7

-Serra Club Mass for Vocations, St. John the Baptist Church, St. John, 8:30 a.m. (Rosary 8:00 a.m.)

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 8

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

Among our sick: Donna Avant, Lorene Christ, Josephine Muniz, Wilbert Kalinec, Barbara Kubena, Kathy Davis, Elrose Ehler, Marilyn Palmquist, Doug Blumberg, Becky Pekar, Amanda Gutierrez, Karen Kahanek, Harvey Drozd, Monte Staha, Marie Hermes, Karen Perez, Georgie Meyer, Doris Anders, Jack Crandall, Gary Trojcak, Brian Wisnoski, Jeanne McClain, Frances Kutach, Sweet Hrcir, Henry Konvicka, Clorisa Hartensteiner, Betsy Brown, Leo Haas, Jr., Marcella Henke, Mark Henneke, Kirk Remmers, Richard Grahmann, Margie Becker, Anita Pesek, Maurice Parr, Dollie Parr, Joyce Tesch, Msgr. Celestino Say, Bill Curley, nursing home residents, & the homebound.

Happy Anniversary!

Charles & Doloris Leopold	51 years	Feb. 1
Robert & Maria Rodriguez	52 years	Feb. 1
Bill & Fran Byrd	50 years	Feb. 5



Welcome to the Parish: Donal and Judy Johnson; Chad and Lauren Pasak and daughter Peyton; Annette Pesek; and, Stan and Charlene Ulman.

Christian Mothers Meeting & Bunco Party, February 9, 6:00 p.m., Family Center. Noodle soup will be served after the meeting, followed by Bunco. Members are asked to come out and enjoy an evening of fun and fellowship.

Catholic Daughters dues of \$20 are now due for 2015. Mail to Monica Foyt, 11014 U.S. Hwy. 90 A East, H'ville.

From the Desk of Msgr. John

“Through the intercession of St. Blaise, bishop and martyr, may God deliver you from ailments of the throat and from every other evil...”

These are the words of the special blessing of the throats customarily given on the Feast of St. Blaise.

St. Blaise was bishop of Sebaste, in Armenia, in the early years of the fourth century. Legend takes over from there, and tells the story of an anxious mother who hurried to Blaise with her little boy who had a fish bone lodged in his throat. The saint called for two candles, lit them, held them in the form of a cross under the child’s chin, recited prayers and blessed the boy. Immediately the bone loosened and was removed. Devotion to St. Blaise was very popular during the Middle Ages, and continues to this day.

We all want relief and protection from physical troubles and ailments of the throat – hoarseness, choking, colds, cancer. But there are also spiritual diseases of the throat, more harmful often than the physical. We ask protection from these as well when we ask for deliverance “from ailments of the throat and *from every other evil.*” These are spiritual troubles which are beyond the cure of the greatest throat specialists. They are the evils of unkind speech, choking curses and gagging lies.

The Apostle Paul had these in mind when he wrote to the Romans (3:13), quoting Psalm 5, vs. 11: “Their throat is an open sepulchre. With their tongues they have dealt deceitfully. The venom of asps is under their lips. Their mouths are full of cursing and bitterness.” Such spiritual illnesses are truly most harmful, and these, too, we want to be cured of through the intercession of St. Blaise.

As you receive the blessing of St. Blaise this weekend, ask through his intercession for deliverance from physical and spiritual evils of the throat and tongue.

Sacred Heart CCD News ~~

Feb. 8: First Communion Workshop, 2pm, Family Center.

Feb. 18: 10th Grade participates in Ash Wednesday Mass.

Sacred Heart Youth News ~~

YOUTH SPECTACULAR!! Sunday, February 15, Holy Family Church, **Wharton**. Doors open at 11:00 am with the event concluding with Mass at 5:30 pm. To guarantee a group rate of \$15 forms will be **due by Monday, Feb 9th**. We will provide transportation if enough youth are interested in going. So grab your friends and sign up! Keynote Speaker will be the assistant director of Campus ministry at Texas A&M.

Also, now is the time to show your interest in our Summer trip to Steubenville on the Bayou! We will be circulating interest forms and accepting emails at troysplashwaywaterpark.com if your child is interested in attending. More information will be provided in the upcoming weeks.

December & January Baptisms: Bailey Marie, daughter of Dusty & Stacy Wagner; Maverick James, son of James Ludwig & Glory Simmons; Mason Lee, son of James Ludwig & Tamera Basquez; Claire Elise, daughter of Christopher & Deanna Rodgers; and, Neely Sloane, daughter of Stephen & Ashley Grahmann.



SHCS Extravaganza! “The Orient at Nightfall,”
Saturday, February 7, 6:00 p.m. to 12:00 a.m.,
K.C. Hall. Tickets \$125 per couple (includes social with hors d’oeuvres, refreshments all evening, steak dinner and dance). Live music provided by Southern Express. Tickets are still available for purchase at the SHCS Office, Sacred Heart Credit Union and the Rectory.



Sacred Heart School News ~~

Feb. 6: Early Dismissal. K-4th 1 pm. Gr. 5th-12th 1:30 pm.

Masses sent to the Chancery: Eunice Christ-16; Living & deceased members of Catholic Financial-7; Karen Steffek-28; Sarah Jansky-3; Deceased members of Alois & Marie Morkovsky-16; Theresa Hemmi-16; William Grahmann-14; Anton Honish-9; Deacon Sonny Rogers-2; Ben Brosch-28; Martin Pustka-2; Terry Lynn Bludau-5; Eugene Vasek, Sr.-54; Masimo DeLaRosa-4; James & Grace Liska-54; Emil Grahmann-23.

God’s Embrace Renewal Centers and their Music Ministry are hosting a twelve week spiritual formation program in our parish. The next session is Feb. 12 in the Family Center. For information, please contact Sandy Reese 979-541-6881 or sandy.reese@godsembrace.org

Area Festivals and Events:

Feb. 8: St. Mary Parish Festival, Victoria Com. Center. Roast Beef Lunch 11am-1:30pm. Auction, booths, music.

Feb. 8: St. Roch Church, Mentz. Catholic Daughters/K.C. Turkey & Dressing Lunch 11am. Silent Auction. Raffle.

4th Sunday in Ordinary Time – “The people were astonished at His teaching, for He taught them as one having authority and not as the scribes.” His teaching was new, fresh, surprising. The Jewish people were used to the teaching style of their scribes, the scholars who interpreted the Scriptures and taught the corresponding laws. As the incarnate Son of God, He spoke with an authority that was greater even than the religious laws.

And just in case those who heard Him doubted His legitimacy, Jesus proved His authority by more than words; He cast out evil spirits. When the people witnessed Jesus commanding “even the unclean spirits” and saw that these spirits obeyed Him, they were “amazed” at this “new teaching with authority.”



What our Jewish ancestors experienced is recorded for us to bolster our own faith. Although we were not there to see these events unfold, if we meditate on the reality of today’s Gospel story we will also be astonished and amazed. Jesus is more than a teacher. He is more than a kind man with an attractive philosophy. Jesus has power over the spiritual world! His authority over us is real. And He exercises this authentic authority for our own good. He has the power to do away with evil and to set us free, both through His teachings--passed on to us in the Bible and in the Church--and through His action in our lives. We only need to follow His lead.

Growing in FAITH™

Discovering **hope and joy** in the Catholic faith.

February 2015

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

Fr. John C. Peters, Pastor

One Minute Meditations

St. Peter Damian

Born in 1072, Peter was orphaned at a young age. He escaped poor treatment by one brother when the other took him away to school where he trained to become a professor.

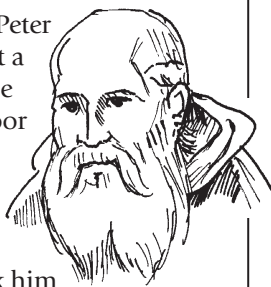
Peter practiced strict penances and spent many hours in prayer. Soon he left teaching to become a Benedictine. Pope Stephen IX made Peter cardinal of Ostia and he instituted reforms and ended many abusive practices in the Church. He wrote extensively and was declared a Doctor of the Church.

Mass for Lent

Consider increasing your Mass attendance from once in a while to every Sunday, or from every Sunday to several days a week. Trade an hour of television each day for an hour of prayer. The extra grace will see you through the season of Lent.

"You will show me the path to life, abounding joy in your presence, the delights at your right hand forever"

Psalm 16:11.



Self-denial is not just for Lent

Society tells us that we are entitled to whatever we want whenever we want it. Yet Jesus said, *"If any man would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me"* (Matthew 16:24). The ability to say "no" to ourselves is critical for achieving goals and overcoming temptations.

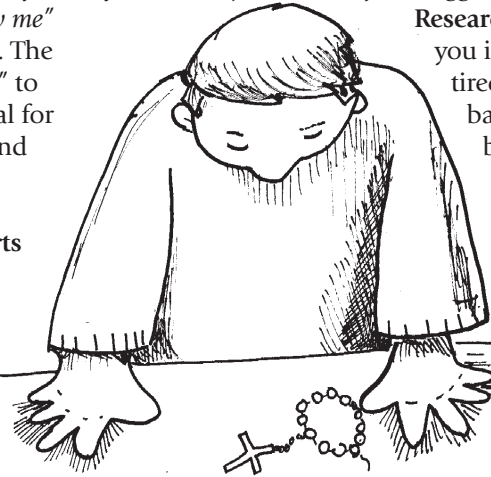
Self-denial starts with deliberate choices. To live a disciplined life – key to reaching any important goal – means choosing to be ruled by deliberate choices rather than by emotions, bad habits, or the influence of others. Practicing self-denial prepares us for the lean times in life that are outside of our control.

Learn what tempts you. Make a list of

that which you have most difficulty regulating. For example, you may find food, using bad language, and gossip to be your biggest temptations.

Research your triggers. Do you indulge when you are tired? Insecure? Around bad company? Read books or articles about the areas that present difficulty. Becoming informed helps you make the right decision when you are tempted to make the wrong choice. Make an action plan.

Distract yourself. When you feel the urge to lose self-control, pull out your Rosary, go for a walk, drink a glass of water. This will derail the train of thought and give you time to regain your self-discipline.



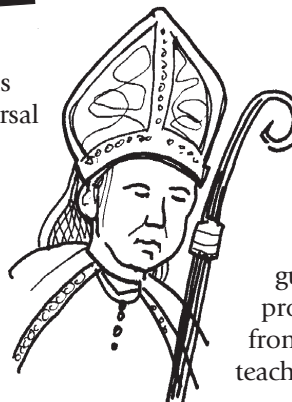
Why Do Catholics Do That?

After his resurrection, Jesus sent his Apostles on a universal mission: *"Go therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them...and teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you"* (Matthew 28:19-20).

The Apostles left bishops as their successors to

Why do Catholics follow bishops?

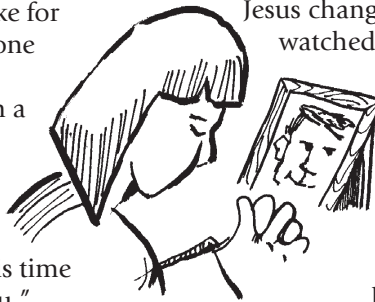
continue teaching the faith. The pope and the bishops form the Magisterium, the teaching authority of the Church. The Magisterium, guided by the Holy Spirit, protects Church teaching from serious mistakes and teaches us how to live our faith.



Intercessory prayer – a double blessing

When we pray for others, we offer powerful help for someone in need. It's the best action we can take for others. Intercessory prayer is also a gift for the one who prays.

Prayers of friends can save. Remember when a group of friends lowered a paralyzed man through a roof so Jesus could cure him (Mark 2:1-12)? Jesus was clearly touched by their devotion. His usual response when asked for healing was, "your faith has saved you." This time he said, "The faith of your friends has saved you."



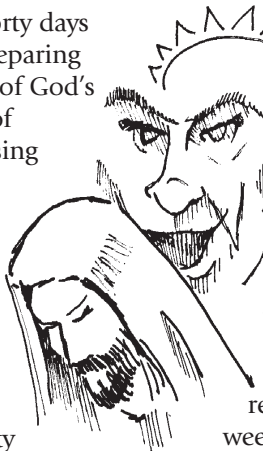
Place friends' needs before Jesus. In the Gospel story, Jesus changed the man's life and amazed all who watched. Imagine the kind of difference we can each make when we ask Jesus to help our friends.

Prayer blesses both the one who prays and the one prayed for. Those for whom we pray are blessed by the positive effect of our prayers. We are also blessed by the connection prayer gives us to God and by seeing the results of our prayers.

from Scripture

Mark 1:12-15, Triumph in the desert

Led by the Holy Spirit after his baptism, Jesus spent forty days fasting in the desert preparing for his ministry. Many of God's chosen spent periods of preparation and cleansing before undertaking important work in his service. Moses spent forty days fasting with God on Mt. Zion at the giving of the Law (Exodus 34:28). The Israelites scouted the Promised Land for forty days (Numbers 13:25) and wandering in the wilderness for forty years before entering it (Numbers 14:34).



In the desert, Jesus was tempted by Satan. Temptations surround us as part of our fallen world. Satan constantly works to tear us away from God. Jesus was not immune from his efforts but triumphed over Satan fully.

The best way for us to resist Satan and the presence of evil is to stay in a state of grace. We do this by going to Confession frequently, receiving the Eucharist at least every week, and praying as often during the day as we can. When we keep ourselves in God's presence, Satan and his temptations won't have a chance.

Q & A

Why do we say, "God is love?"

Love is an exchange between persons. In Scripture – God's inspired word –



God's love for us is compared to the love between family members: a father for his son, a mother for her children, a husband for his wife. We say "God is love" (1 John 4:8), because he himself is an eternal exchange of love (CCC 221).

Throughout the Old Testament, God continually showed his people, Israel, proofs of this love. He never stopped saving them, forgiving them, and providing for them. God does the same for us today.

For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him might not perish but have eternal life (John 3:16). Jesus showed us the Father's love in words and deeds. He taught us to call God, "Our Father," forgave people's sins, healed their sickness, and fed them. Christ expressed this love perfectly on the Cross. "No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends" (John 14:13).

Feasts & Celebrations

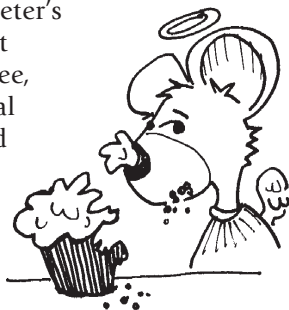
Lent begins February 18th, and commemorates the **Passion of Our Lord**. One observance is to pray before the Stations of the Cross in church and meditate on Jesus' journey to Calvary.

February 14 – St. Cyril (869). Along with his brother St. Methodius, St. Cyril was a missionary, teacher, and patron of the Slavic people. He invented an alphabet still used in some Eastern liturgies, and preached the Gospel in an easily understood manner. He died in Rome after taking the monastic habit.

February 21 – St. Peter Damian

(1072). Childhood deprivation may have created a desire for an austere life. St. Peter Damian became a devoted and disciplined monk but was called to service as a bishop and served as advisor to seven popes. He retired to monastic life and died in the care of his brother monks.

February 22 — St. Peter's Chair. Marking St. Peter's establishment of the Holy See, on this festival we thank God for his Church and pray for its holy preservation.



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