

Saint John XXIII Roman Catholic Church

3390 Portage Avenue

Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada R3K 0Z3

Telephone: 204-832-7175 • Fax: 204-885-2447

Email: office@johnxxiii.ca • Website: www.johnxxiii.ca

Office Hours: *Office closed to the public until further notice*

SACRAMENT OF THE HOLY EUCHARIST

SUNDAY LITURGIES (MASSES)

*DUE TO RESTRICTIONS BY PUBLIC HEALTH ORDERS,
PUBLIC SUNDAY MASSES ARE SUSPENDED AT THIS TIME*

WEEKDAY LITURGIES

PUBLIC WEEKDAY MASSES ARE SUSPENDED AT THIS TIME

ASSISTANCE TO THE SICK AND SHUT-IN

For emergencies, you may contact the parish office

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION (CONFESSIONS)

As circumstances permit, by appointment

PARISH BULLETIN

THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – “SUNDAY OF THE WORD OF GOD”

January 24, 2021

FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

January 31, 2021

PARISH PASTORAL TEAM

Pastor: Reverend Fr. Robert Polz

204-832-7335 rpolz.johnxxiii@gmail.com

Pastoral Assistant: Sharon Camier

204-832-7206 sharon@johnxxiii.ca

Trustee: Loris Vendramelli

204-888-8200 loris@mymts.net

Trustee: William Gould

204-832-7175 william.d.gould@gmail.com

Fundraising and Development Committee

204-832-7175 call if interested in serving

Administrative Assistant: Joanna Mason

204-832-7175 office@johnxxiii.ca

Head Custodian: José Barrera

204-888-9340

Music Ministry: Donna Vendramelli

204-888-8200 d_vendramelli@mymts.net

Building and Maintenance Chair: Claude Precourt

204-898-1893 cfp3899@gmail.com

Parish Pastoral Council Facilitator: Laurette Burch

204-885-6988 burchd@mymts.net

FAITH FORMATION:

Contact our Pastoral Assistant (Sharon) for further information concerning catechism materials for lessons to take place in the home setting during this time of COVID-19.

When circumstances permit, catechism sessions for children (K to Grade 8) are held on Sunday mornings from 10:15 to 11:15 a.m. Periodically other programs, workshops, and/or study sessions are offered for adults.

SACRAMENTS OF INITIATION (BAPTISM, CONFIRMATION, EUCHARIST): Contact our Pastoral Assistant for further information.

SACRAMENT OF THE ANOINTING OF THE SICK: Contact the Pastor (Fr. Robert).

SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE: Arrangements for preparation and celebration should be made at least six months in advance.

CELEBRATION OF CHRISTIAN FUNERALS: Contact the parish office before finalizing arrangements with funeral directors.

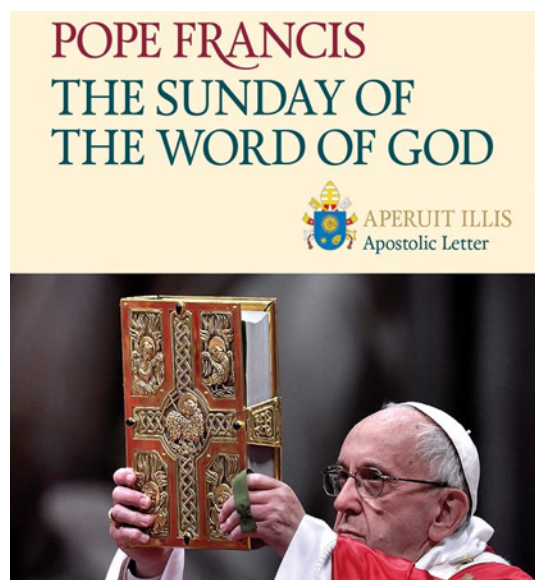
Aperuit Illis ***Instituting the Sunday of the Word of God***

With this Letter, I wish to respond to the many requests I have received from the people of God that the entire Church celebrate, in unity of purpose, a Sunday of the Word of God. It is now common for the Christian community to set aside moments to reflect on the great importance of the word of God for everyday living. The various local Churches have undertaken a wealth of initiatives to make the sacred Scripture more accessible to believers, to increase their gratitude for so great a gift, and to help them to strive daily to embody and bear witness to its teachings.

It is fitting, then that the life of our people be constantly marked by this decisive relationship with the living word that the Lord never tires of speaking to his Bride, that she may grow in love and faithful witness.

Consequently, I hereby declare that the Third Sunday in Ordinary Time is to be devoted to the celebration, study and dissemination of the word of God.

– Pope Francis



Go to the Vatican website to read the entire letter:

http://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/motu_proprio/documents/papa-francesco-motu-proprio-20190930_aperuit-illis.html

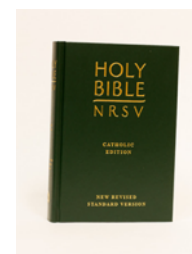
LECTIO DIVINA

Lectio Divina is a blessing for the entire Church as it opens up the rich truths of Scripture for every Christian. Through it believers are invited to read, understand and deepen their appreciation of the Scriptures and to seek guidance for their lives in the teachings of Jesus. The goal is to meet Jesus as we read his Word and allow him to transform our lives to be more like him through the work of the Holy Spirit. *Lectio Divina* is a dynamic, life-oriented approach to the Holy Scriptures through Reading “Lectio”, Meditation “Meditatio”, Prayer “Oratio”, and Contemplation “Contemplatio”.

Guidelines for *Lectio Divina* are available from many sources. For example, to order *Lectio Divina* from the Canadian Bible Society (printed version or to download a pdf version) go to www.biblesociety.ca

NRSV BIBLE – Catholic Edition, Hardcover

Copies of the NRSV Bible are available through the parish office for the very reasonable price of \$20 per Bible. Published by the Canadian Bible Society: With the preferred order of books of the Bible for Catholics including the Deuterocanonical books; Imprimatur of the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops (CCCCB); Double-column text; Chapter and section headings; Footnotes; Lectionary; Prayers and Devotions of the Catholic faith; Concordance; Forest green hardcover, gold stamping; A clear, vivid and accurate translation of the Bible that today's Catholics can use with confidence. The NRSV translation is the same translation used in the celebration of the Catholic Liturgy in Canada.



Living with Christ SUNDAY MISSAL 2020 – 2021

Sunday missals are available through the parish office for \$6.00 per copy. The LWC Sunday Missal contains the New English translation of the Roman Missal, COMPLETE Scripture readings for Sunday Masses, Musical acclamations by Canadian composers, Reflections for all Sunday liturgies, Monthly Calendar of Saints, Inspiration from the Saints, Papal Prayer Intentions for each month of the year, Guide to celebrating the Sacrament of Reconciliation, Prayers for various occasions, Hymns, Living with Christ is completely edited and produced in Canada. Call the parish office to reserve copies.



Living With Christ (Canada) APP

Living with Christ, Canada's daily spiritual companion, now comes in a handy app format. Offering the texts readings of the Catholic liturgy, as well as a range of prayers and information to help guide and inspire your prayer life. This free tool from Novalis is designed to supplement your monthly missalette, keeping you connected to Living with Christ no matter where you are. In addition to the daily Mass readings, the app offers seasonal collections of daily prayers, as well as images for meditation, a colour-coded liturgical calendar with feast and saints' days. Download from the Apple App Store or get it on Google Play, or for more info go to www.novalis.ca



LIVESTREAMING OF SUNDAY MASS AT SAINT JOHN XXIII

To access livestreaming of parish liturgies via YouTube and/or an archive of liturgies posted online, go to links found on the home page of our parish website www.johnxxiii.ca

The entire Province of Manitoba continues to follow protocols of the CRITICAL LEVEL (RED) on the Pandemic Response System to halt COVID-19 transmission and protect our most vulnerable citizens.

ALL PUBLIC MASSES ON SUNDAYS AND WEEKDAYS HAVE BEEN SUSPENDED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE.

In addition, our parish office at Saint John XXIII remains closed to the public.

While the physical building is closed to the public, parish staff will continue to work mostly from home.

We will do our best to answer emails and respond to telephone voice mail messages in a timely fashion.

We continue to livestream and upload to our YouTube channel Sunday liturgies offered in private by our pastor so parishioners may join themselves in their homes to these sacred celebrations.

For further information, please go to the Archdiocesan website at www.archwinnipeg.ca or our parish website at www.johnxxiii.ca

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

January 18 – 25, 2021

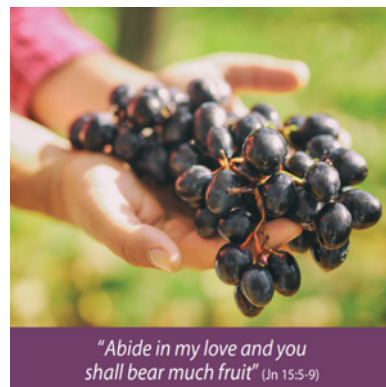
Every year, during the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, Christian communities and churches join together to pray for the visible unity of the Church, according to the will of Christ who prayed on the eve of his suffering and death “that they may all be one... so that the world may believe” (John 17:21). Prayer for Christian unity is a sharing in the prayer of Jesus who desires his disciples to share the Good News of God’s love in every time and place.

Our customary way of marking the Week of Prayer here in Winnipeg with a City-Wide Ecumenical Service and other services throughout the week has been curtailed this year due to the current COVID-19 pandemic. Nevertheless, we are still invited to practice a heightened “spiritual ecumenism” during this annual weeklong observance, even if the form of our public and private praying for unity must be adapted to the circumstances in which we find ourselves.

As we pray for the unity of Christians this year, we celebrate the theme given to us from the ecumenical monastic community of Grandchamp in Switzerland, **“Abide in my love and you shall bear much fruit”** (cf. John 15:1-17). The very voice of Jesus Christ reminds us that he is the vine and we are the branches. The sap that nourishes a grapevine can be seen as a metaphor of the Holy Spirit nourishing the whole vine of the one Church, no matter what our branch. Each branch can produce abundant good fruit to nourish in turn the whole world. But Christ himself is the vine who holds us all together.

After all the challenges and anguish of 2020, let us join together spiritually and look to the future with faith and hope. **Whether privately, online virtually, or in our domestic churches with the members of our families, let us find appropriate ways to participate in this year’s Week of Prayer for Christian Unity.**

Let us all abide in Christ’s love to bear the good fruit that can make the year 2021 a blessing for all. May our prayers bring us into closer communion with all our brothers and sisters in Christ and in greater solidarity with the whole of creation.



“Abide in my love and you shall bear much fruit” (Jn 15:5-9)

Winnipeg Livestream Celebration for the Week of Prayer 2021

was held on Monday, January 18, 2021 at Saint John XXIII Church, Winnipeg, MB.

The celebration may be accessed on our parish’s YouTube Channel

For the direct YouTube link go to <https://youtu.be/5w9wp6x8Amg>

WPCU ONLINE ECUMENICAL SERVICE planned by the Canadian Centre for Ecumenism (Montréal) will be held on **Sunday, January 24 at 3:00 pm (EST)**. The service is bilingual. Register to receive the Zoom or YouTube links at https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdvWflnQX5_1870OoiXcWKWgmDkwGJXY5mYZHSNJXq9Njp-GA/viewform

“At the time appointed, Christ came forth from the Father and showed himself in this external word, first as its creator, then as its teacher, the revealer of secrets, the mediator ... and the express image of his person.” — Saint John Henry Newman

In accordance with the protocols in place, until further notice our Pastor continues to offer all Masses without a congregation. Sunday Masses livestreamed will be offered "Pro populo", i.e. for the intentions of parishioners. As circumstances permit, Mass will be offered in private on weekdays for the following intentions:

Special intention for the unity of Christians

For the intentions of Borek Onderka (health), requested by Henrietta Zhanel

Jozef Nemcek+, requested by Sharon and John Camier

Louise Lane+, requested by Mona Harper

Geraldine Richard+, requested by Mona Harper

Alice Edwards+, requested by St. James CWL

Special intention, requested by a parishioner

For all the faithful departed+, requested by Tannena Korolyk

In thanksgiving for the parish staff, requested by Tannena Korolyk

Harold Patson+, requested by Zonia Patson

TABERNACLE LAMP OFFERING

January 24 – 30, 2021

Special intention for the unity of Christians

January 31 – February 6, 2021

Special intention, requested by a parishioner

If you wish to have the Tabernacle Lamp in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel of Saint John XXIII Church burn in memory of a loved one, to honour a special occasion, or for a particular intention, you may make arrangements through the Parish Office. Call or email for assistance. The offering to cover one week (from Sunday through Saturday) is \$25.00.



PLEASE PRAY FOR THOSE OF OUR COMMUNITY IN NEED OF HEALING AND COMFORT:

Darrell Aucoin, Gladys Barton, Annette and Maynard Bates, Catherine Blaquera, Freda Broughton, Bill Camier, Harold Cook, René Defries, Ray Fleury, John Foucart, Audrey Fraser, René Gobeil, Helen Hallack, Darryn Hellofs, Bev and Steve Hewitt, Rosario Jequinto, Tracy Kingsland, Amanda Klaasen, Angela Krassie, Violet Lebedeff, Marie Mangin, Norman Mangin, Tim Mangin, Yvonne Mason, Frances Mijker, Susan Murphy, Zonia Patson, Shirley Payment, Owen Robertson, Janice Skene, Jerome Strachan, Joe Wallack and Helen Yankoski.



Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

January 24, 2021

Jonah 3:1-5, 10

Jonah drags his feet through Nineveh with his message of mass destruction.

Psalms 25:4-5a, 6+7b, 8-9

God has loved us for a long time, and with mercy and kindness shows sinners the way.

1 Corinthians 7:29-31

This world is passing—
don't get too attached to the way things are.

Mark 1:14-20

Jesus goes fishing for disciples and catches four.



EXPLORING THE WORD

Making a U-turn

Discipleship requires a certain amount of flexibility. Actually, a better term would be acrobatics. I'm thinking of something along the lines of what the performance group Cirque du Soleil does. Discipleship is easier when you have no bones to break in the process.

But for those of us who are not yet filleted, there's still hope. Discipleship demands the prerequisite of conversion, and the only part of us that must be broken in conversion is our hearts. Broken open by the bracing impact of God's word; broken

painfully by the suffering world and the urgent cry of the poor; broken humbly with contrition at the occasion of our own sin; broken again and again so that this small vessel of our love can be widened, broadened, made more glorious in the same way the snake leaves its skin and the butterfly its chrysalis. The work of conversion in our lives demands a holy U-turn on the road we've been taking up to now. And not just one hour of turning but a regular reassessment of the direction we're headed. Because human nature is notorious for steering us in the direction of self-involvement. Unless we engage in a routine of prayerful reflection and self-examination, we can count on gently sliding back into a self-satisfying lane.

We're all in Jonah's boat

Jonah's story is very instructive, not to mention wildly entertaining, because we all find ourselves in Jonah's boat. It's going to Tarshish, by the way, and the Lord has specifically asked Jonah to go to Nineveh in the opposite direction. God asked him to go northeast and Jonah responded by turning southwest. Before long, as we know, Jonah is really going to go south—right to the bottom of the sea in the belly of a fish.

Centuries later, the symbol of the fish will be used for Christ's disciples, and that has a note of hilarity in it. Next time you see a fish on the back of someone's car, or your own, remember that the fish in Jonah's story was a better disciple of the Lord than Jonah was. The fish did God's bidding: swallowed up God's refusenik servant, held onto him undigested for three days, and then spat him out on the appropriate shore. The story of Jonah is outrageous and it makes us laugh and it's supposed to. But some of that laughter had better be rueful, and some of that absurdity had better be recognizable. It's our story. Sometimes God has to go to biblically outrageous lengths to get our attention.

Having been bamboozled into making a U-turn himself, Jonah does not extend the favor to the citizens of Nineveh to whom he has been delivered. Jonah does not preach conversion or repentance or anything of the sort. He proclaims a message of annihilation from which there is no escape. We can see that although the prophet has been vomited in the right direction, he has not made a course correction in the recesses of his heart. He's still the same old Jonah, hater of Ninevites—and none too keen on doing the Lord's will either. The story ends without resolving the question of whether Jonah is going to turn around. He sits in the sun, hot and bothered and silent as the great and merciful God pleads for a little show of compassion for Jonah's fellow human beings.

This is the time of fulfillment

The early Christians were a bunch of Jesus-loving, God-fearing clock-watchers. John's gospel, for example, is consumed with the matter of Jesus' "hour": specifically, when it would arrive and what it would bring. Paul's letters are equally powered by the imminence of parousia and how Christ would swallow up the present reality whole and ultimately and eternally be "all in all." The Book of Revelation is all about how urgent the time is and how foolish we are to be careless with a moment when the angels themselves are holding their breath at the nearness of the final conflagration. Time, from a cosmic perspective, is the most terrible thing to waste of all.

Mark therefore wastes no words in getting to the meat of the matter in his breathlessly brief gospel. From the start, Jesus announces that here and now is the time of fulfillment, and the kingdom of God is at hand. In case anyone is wondering how to respond to that idea, Jesus is helpfully frank: "Repent, and believe in the gospel." Some repented, we may suppose, while others believed, and a few did both. But almost no one repented enough and believed enough, as it turned out. If they had, there would have been throngs at Calvary, and the crucifixion may have been difficult to carry out.

But before we get to thinking that repentance and faith are rare and difficult things to achieve, let's look further into the reading. Jesus walks past some fishermen just offshore, the brothers Simon and Andrew, who are casting their nets with their mundane daily hope of a catch. Jesus likes their plodding fidelity to their task and the fact that each time they throw a net, they have to believe the fish might be caught. That kind of faith and hope are great attributes in a disciple, but do they have the capacity to make the grand U-turn? Jesus says, "Come after me," and they abandoned their nets without hesitation.

APPLYING THE WORD

Time is running out

Jesus would spend the next three years teaching his followers how to be disciples. He didn't have time for elaborate explanations there on the beach, only a few moments to ask them to turn their lives around and move in a new direction. This is how it is for the next set of brothers, James and John, tediously mending torn nets in their father's boat; and for Nathanael, dallying under the fig tree; Matthew in the midst of his sinful occupation at the toll gate; and Judas, too, whatever he was doing when Jesus walked through his life.

The capacity to interrupt our lives long enough to accept the invitation with conscious intent is crucial to calling ourselves by the name Christian. We also have to embrace the responsibility to turn, and turn again when necessary, so that we are always facing the direction that Jesus is headed.

— Alice Camille

Alice Camille is a religious educator, scripture commentator, and author of many books including **This Transforming Word** and other titles found at alicecamille.com
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***"We cannot be fishers of men and women if in our hearts we are haters of them.
This truth ... reveals a nonviolent ethic: Love even your enemies; become fishers of them.
We will not win people to our convictions if we despise them."***

— Susan B. W. Johnson

Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time January 31, 2021

Deuteronomy 18:15-20

Moses predicts a future prophet over Israel,
later known as the Teacher of Righteousness.

Psalms 95:1-2, 6-7ab, 7c-9

Attentiveness to God's voice
requires the softening of our hearts.

1 Corinthians 7:32-35

Paul gives advice about how celibacy frees the heart
for whole-souled dedication to service.

Mark 1:21-28

Jesus reveals himself as a teacher with a rare new authority
to which even demons respond.



EXPLORING THE WORD

Teaching with authority

One of my favorite teachings from the epistles is almost a throwaway line from Colossians 3:21: "Fathers, do not nag your children, lest they lose heart." That's the old ICEL translation from the breviary, anyway. My fondness for the verse surely betrays that I had a near bout of loss-of-heart myself. Relentless negativity does foster profound discouragement in children and other living things. Anyone who holds authority over others and seeks to do that justly must honor this reality.

And the larger truth is that sooner or later all of us find ourselves in positions of authority. Some will ascend to public office or law enforcement or church leadership. Others will stand at the heads of classrooms, boardrooms, and task forces. Some will be parents of children, and others, doctors, employers, coaches, guidance counselors, spiritual directors, older siblings, or mentors. Sometimes it's a friend or even a stranger who turns to us for advice because we seem wiser than they are, at least in this one instance. How will we use the authority granted to us by their trust?

Moses was in the unenviable position of being the go-to guy for an entire nation. He was the lawgiver, the argument decider, the meal supplier, not to mention the direct mediator between God and the people. He carried this terrible burden for 40 years. And just before he laid it down at last, Moses predicted the arrival of a prophet like himself. This prediction from Deuteronomy 18:15 became the foundation for all messianic expectation to follow. The anticipated one later became known as the Teacher of Righteousness. In the gospels, when John sends his anxious question, "Are you the One who is to come, or should we look for another?", this is the "one" he means. In the same way, when John is quizzed by the authorities, "Are you the prophet?" this is the intended reference.

The authority Jesus has at his disposal instantly arouses the same kind of curiosity. "What is this?" the crowds wonder. That unclean spirits respond to his authority makes him seem like a new kind of teacher, perhaps the Teacher to come. Of course this same evidence is what makes the religious authorities suspect Jesus is in league with the Prince of Demons. Go figure.

What Jesus understood—and what was clearly hidden from Pharisees, Sadducees, and others—is the proper use of authority. Use it to fight demons, sickness, ignorance, and sin! But don't wield it blindly, disproportionately, interminably, and without the measure of the poor soul in front of you. Don't cast a stone that's legally within your right to hurl when the defenseless creature in front of you needs forgiveness more than condemnation. A Teacher of Righteousness knows what to do with power.

— Alice Camille

Alice Camille is a religious educator, scripture commentator, and author of many books
including **This Transforming Word** and other titles found at alicecamille.com
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Feast of the Presentation of the Lord – “CANDLEMAS” February 2, 2021

Malachi 3:1-4

The Lord whom you seek
will suddenly come to his temple.

Psalms 24:7, 8, 9, 10

The Lord of hosts, he is the king of glory!

Hebrews 2:10-11, 13b-18

Jesus had to become like his brothers and sisters
in every respect.

Luke 2:22-40

My eyes have seen your salvation.



REFLECTION ON THE READINGS

by [Laura Kazlas](#) from the website **A CATHOLIC MOMENT** www.acatholic.org

The gospel for mass today is the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord Jesus in the temple. Joseph and Mary took baby Jesus up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord, according to the law of Moses. But, before they left on their journey, they underwent a period of purification, according to the law of Moses. When they reached the temple, they were to offer a sacrifice of two turtledoves or pigeons, in keeping the law of the Lord. Then, Joseph and Mary presented baby Jesus to Simon, to perform the custom of the law in regard to him. At the end of the gospel reading, it says that after they had fulfilled all of the prescriptions of the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee.

Did you notice that the common thread through this gospel is that Joseph and Mary fulfilled the law of the Lord? We should stop for a moment to consider this, and not just skim over this fact, before we begin focusing on the main theme of this gospel. So many modern people feel like the “rules” are a hindrance to their freedom. We have an unflattering term for people who feel this way in our church. They are called “cafeteria Catholics”, because they feel like it is their right to pick and choose what they do, or do not believe about the Catholic faith. It’s a very good thing Mary and Joseph, and Jesus himself, did not feel this way.

Laws and “rules” were not created by God to impose His will on mankind, or limit their freedom or enjoyment in life. Laws, “rules” and Catholic doctrine do not limit our freedom, but enhance it. We undergo a great deal more suffering when we ignore the laws or the rules in the long run. Not adhering to the rules, or breaking the law is a short term pleasure that usually results in long term suffering for oneself and those whose lives we affect. This is especially true when it comes to Catholic doctrine.

The main point of today’s feast though, is about baby Jesus’ presentation in the temple. Simon and Anna both gave prophecies about who he was, and what the future would hold for him, their people, and for Mary too. These two holy people recognized who Jesus was when they first saw him, much like John the Baptist recognized who Jesus was when he was still in the womb. Their testimony validated the importance of who Jesus really was, along with many other eye witness accounts of his life.

The second reading for mass from the letter of Hebrews, tells us that Jesus came to destroy sin and death and to free those who had been subjected to slavery all their life. He became like us in every way because he is both human and divine. Jesus is the great, and merciful high priest who stands before God to expiate the sins of all people. He himself was tested through what he suffered and he is therefore able to help all those who are being tested as well. We should rely on Jesus in all the circumstances of our lives. He is our strength and the only means of our salvation.

The first reading for mass from the book of Malachi, says that the Lord is like a refiner’s fire. “He will sit refining and purifying silver, and he will purify the sons of Levi, refining them like gold or like silver, that they may offer due sacrifice to the Lord.” This scripture passage ends by saying that after this purification, they will please the Lord, as in the days of old, as in years gone by.

If you remember, Joseph and Mary underwent a period of purification in the gospel reading for mass today too, before they offered their sacrifice to the Lord. It prepared them to come before God, to present baby Jesus, in purity, holiness and in a state of grace.

Aside from the beautiful story of baby Jesus’ presentation in the temple and the prophecies of Simon and Anna, it would be a good thing to give a little thought today about growing in holiness ourselves. In order to be even more pleasing to God,

perhaps we could realize that we too, have a need for purification. We don't have to decide that "this is who I am" and God should accept us just the way we are. He does. But, a wedding feast is a deeper communion of love, a celebration of love and new life. Jesus invites us to this feast. Should we greet him just as we are? Jesus is the bridegroom of the church. We should prepare ourselves to receive him, in holiness, through grace, in keeping with the "rules" and sacraments of the church. Spiritual perfection is a good thing.

HOW TO CELEBRATE CANDLEMAS IN THE HOME WITH CHILDREN

The following are some links to websites with ideas:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ck3Lq1t3RE8>

<https://intentionalcatholicparenting.com/candlemas-101-intentional-links/>

<http://firstheralds.com/2015/01/31/no-or-little-fuss-candlemas-ideas/>

<https://www.catholicicing.com/ideas-for-celebrating-candlemas-feb-2/>

<https://prayerist.com/candlemasprayers.html>



BLESSING OF THROATS ON THE FEAST OF SAINT BLAISE

The Catholic traditional practice observed on **February 3rd** is the blessing of the throats. During Mass, everyone lines up and the priest – ideally – but the Book of Blessings does allow for the use of deacons and lay ministers, using two of the newly blessed candles from Candlemas (February 2nd) tied together in the middle to form a cross, blesses the faithful one by one, saying: ***“Through the intercession of Saint 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 year, because of the COVID-19 protocols restricting public worship, some families may wish to celebrate the blessing of throats at home. The head of the household or another adult family member may serve as the lay minister. The *Shorter Rite* might be more suitable for a home celebration of the blessing, i.e. nos. 1651-1655 in the *Book of Blessings*. For both the longer and shorter outlines of the rite, including suggestions for a suitable scripture passage to be read, see the excerpt from the *Book of Blessings* available online at: <https://www.catholicculture.org/culture/liturgicalyear/prayers/view.cfm?id=733>

OFFICE OF SOCIAL JUSTICE ORGANIZES FORUM TO DISCUSS ADVOCACY FOR SENIORS

The pandemic has highlighted the extreme vulnerability of our elderly, especially those residing in personal care homes. It is clear that some advocacy measures have to be taken to assist them. Patti Fitzmaurice, the Archdiocese of Winnipeg's Social Justice Coordinator, has scheduled a forum to discuss possible actions that our community may take. The meeting will take place over Zoom on **Wednesday, February 3, 2021, at 6:30 pm**. The forum is open to all interested. Please message Patti at sjustice@archwinnipeg.ca for more information and/or to register.



CCRS OF MANITOBA - LIFE IN THE SPIRIT SEMINAR

You are cordially invited to register and participate, it will run from **February 14 to March 28, 2021** – Sundays at 2:00 p.m. CST via YouTube Live followed by OPTIONAL sharing group discussion via Zoom. Please register ASAP: [7 Weeks LISS Registration Form](#). For more information call 204-895-7544 or visit our website at www.catholicrenewalservices.com.

FREE VIRTUAL NATIONAL CATHOLIC MEN'S CONFERENCE from February 19 to 21, 2021

What does it mean to truly live your Catholic Faith as a man in every area of life? This Free conference will focus on the practical lessons of living our vocation as Fathers, Husbands, Sons, and Disciples. Learn practical and immediately applicable steps for becoming a strong faith and joy-filled Catholic man, gaining a clearer vision of God's unique plan for your life and find the knowledge, strength, and courage to stand up to the challenges of our time. To register for free: go.virtualcatholicconference.com/NCMC2021

“The place God calls you to is the place where your deep gladness and the world's deep hunger meet.”

— Frederick Buechner

“God's will is to save us, and nothing pleases God more than our coming back to God with true repentance.”

— Maximus the Confessor