

FEBRUARY 4, 2024

SACRED HEART PARISH BULLETIN

15300 West Main St. • Cut Off, Louisiana 70345

PASTORAL TEAM

Rev. Joey Lirette - Parish Administrator Theresa Luwisch - Coordinator of Youth

Formation Ashley Archer - Youth Minister Rev. Joey Lirette - RCIA Carmen Duet - Parish Secretary Mary Foret - Adm. Assistant Al Archer - Parish Council President

John Plaisance II - Finance Comm. Chairperson PENANCE: (Confessions)

PHONES: Rectory Office: 632-3858 Fax: 632-4452 Spiritual Life Center: 632-6322

Emails: mforet@htdiocese.org cduet@htdiocese.org

MASS SCHEDULE:

Weekends: Saturday Vigil 4:00 PM Sunday - 7:00, 9:00 & 11:00 AM Hispanic Mass at 1:00 PM

Weekdays:

Monday 6:00 PM Mass & Adoration

Tuesday 6:00 PM

Wed., Thurs. 8:30 AM; 1st Friday & 1st Saturday 8:30 AM

3:00 - 3:30 PM Saturday:

Daily before weekday Masses or by appointment

BAPTISMS: Scheduled when all paperwork is completed and turned in to the Rectory office. Please contact the rectory four (4) months prior to expected date of birth. MATRIMONY: Please contact the priest at least six months prior to Wedding date for details and arrangements. No weddings during Lent.



Postmaster: Send address changes to Sacred Heart Church, 15300 West Main St., Cut Off, LA 70345 Bulletin Announcements due by Monday. Email to cduet@htdiocese.org or mforet@htdiocese.org

1ST FRIDAY MASS AND FEAST OF THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 2024

The Presentation of Jesus at (or in) the Temple is an early episode in the life of **Jesus**, describing his presentation at the Temple in Jerusalem in order to officially induct him into **Judaism**, that is celebrated by many Christian Churches on the holiday of Candlemas. It is described in Chapter 2 of the Gospel of Luke in the New Testament of the Christian Bible.[1] Within the account, "Luke's narration of the Presentation in the Temple combines the purification rite with the Jewish ceremony of the redemption of the firstborn (Luke 2:23-24)."[2] In the Catholic Church, especially since the time of **Pope Gelasius I** (492-496) who in the fifth century contributed to its expansion, the Presentation is celebrated on February 2nd and is the fourth **Joyful Mystery** of the **Rosary**.

In the tradition of days past, if you have candles that you would like blessed, please bring them to 8:30 am Mass on FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 2ND (CANDLEMAS DAY).

1ST SATURDAY MASS AND FEAST OF ST. BLAISE SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 2024

St. Blaise, an early Christian <u>bishop</u> and <u>martyr</u>, is one of the most popular <u>medieval saints</u>. He is venerated as the <u>patron saint</u> of sufferers from <u>throat diseases</u> and of <u>wool</u> combers and as one of the Fourteen Holy Helpers.

BLESSING OF THE THROATS WILL BE HELD ON FIRST SATURDAY MASS, FEB-RUARY 3RD AT 8:30 AM

ANOINTING OF THE SICK SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 10 8:30 A.M. MASS

An anointing of the sick and their caregivers will take place on Saturday February 11th after 8:30 a.m. Mass An explanation will be given at mass to clarify who can receive this sacrament.

RECTORY OFFICE CLOSED ON MONDAY, FEB 12 AND TUESDAY, FEB. 13 DUE TO MARDI GRAS HOLIDAY.

STEWARDSHIP OF TREASURE - Jan	nuary 21, 2024
Envelopes	\$3,790.00
Loose	\$ 972.50
Spanish	\$ 525.00
Total	\$5,287.50
2nd Coll. VBS	\$1,791.00
Other	\$ 729.93

PRAYER LIST

Please pray for: Erick Greene, Dennis Viator, Linda Rousse, Linda Bruce, Andy Nichols, Valorie Hunter, Danny Naquin, Bertha Griffin, James Barker, Anna Constransitch, Mamie Melancon, Denise Plaisance, Joy Rousse, Numa, Melvina & Alison Breaux, Hubert Gautreaux, Harold Rousse, Leroy Chabert, Jude Duet, Richie Angelette, Mike Callais, Daphne Daigle, Genevieve Artigue, Blake Shirley & Fly, Patrick Miller, Lolette Martin, Lea Callais, Norman Callais; Marty Pitre, Gerald Hebert, Jr., Davarion Adams, Ronald Callais, Scarlet Lafont, Robin Adams, Amy Leonard, Gloria Griffin, Joey Duet, Rock Sherman; Jalin Pitre, Aaron Gibbs, Crystal Decost, James & Kathy Burchfield, David Cheramie and all patients of the Nursing Home

COYC PARK BENEFIT

The John Erringtron Eagle Scouts will be selling lunch tickets on the weekends of February 3rd after the 4 p.m. Saturday vigil mass, and again on February 10th & 11th after all weekend masses. The meal will consist of shrimp and sausage etouffee, corn maque choux, peaches and bread and will cost \$10 per ticket. Lunches can be picked up on February 18th at the Cut Off Youth Center between 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. Proceeds will benefit the Eagle Scout project to build a pavilion at the Cut Off Youth Center Park.

EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS MEETING/COMMISSIONING MASS

A meeting of all Eucharistic Ministers will be held on Wednesday, February 21st at 6 p.m. in Church. At this meeting, on the list of all ministers, you will write down which mass you will attend on the following weekend of February 24/25. Fr. Joey will hold a commissioning ceremony for you at all masses that weekend.

LENT 2024

Ash Wednesday - Feb. 14

8:30 a.m. & 6 p.m. Mass and distribution of ashes

12:05 p.m. Distribution of ashes

7:30 p.m. Spanish Mass & Distribution of ashes

Lenten Weekday Masses:

8:30 a.m. — Wed., Thurs., Friday

6:00 p.m. — Monday & Tuesday

Stations of the Cross — Fridays during Lent after 8:30 a.m. Mass & at 6 p.m.

Operation Rice Bowl — Ash Wednesday is the beginning of this program of prayer, fasting and education. You are invited to take home a Lenten calendar and rice bowl if you have not taken one already. Monies you place in your rice bowl throughout Lent will benefit the poor both in our Diocese and in the developing world.

NOTE: When you return your Rice Bowls on Palm Sunday, we would greatly appreciate it if you would please take the change you collected to your local bank and exchange it for paper bills before turning it in to us for processing. Thank you!

MASS BOOK FOR 2024

The Mass Book for 2024 is open for your requests. Intentions are being accepted now and throughout the entire year. Anyone who wishes to have Masses said is asked to make their request in writing to the church office. WE ASK THAT REQUESTS NOT BE CALLED IN OVER THE PHONE. Deadline for turning in Masses is the 2nd Monday of the month before the request. Forms to use in making your requests are available on the tables near the doors of the church. You can either drop your requests off at the Rectory office, or if closed, place in the drop box on the right side of the Rectory door. You may also mail your paperwork in.

ATTENTION

Lectors, Commentators & Eucharistic Ministers the February/March schedules are ready to be picked up from the basket in the Church Sacristy.

NEXT ADORATION SERVICES FOLLOWING 6:00 PM MASS

Monday, February 5 Adoration Monday, February 12 Adoration Monday, February 19 Adoration Monday, February 26 Adoration

2023 CONTRIBUTION STATEMENTS

The 2023 stewardship statements for envelope users are now ready to be printed. If you would like a copy of your statement please call the Rectory Office.

CHARTER FOR THE PROTECTION OF CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

In response to the Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People from the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, the Diocese of Houma-Thibodaux has made the following provision for anyone who has been hurt or sexually abused by anyone who works for the church. The Diocese of Houma-Thibodaux has set up an Outreach Line for all victims/survivors of sexual abuse. In continuing our commitment to support and healing, we invite and encourage people who have been hurt or sexually abused recently or in the past by clergy, religious or other employees of the Diocese of Houma/Thibodaux, to call our outreach line. The Outreach Line operates from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. daily. Monday through Friday. A trained mental health professional responds to the line. The Diocese of Houma-Thibodaux Outreach Line telephone numbers are (985)873-0026 (985) 850-3172.

MASSES	COMMENTATOR	LECTORS	EUCHARIST MINISTERS	CUP MINISTERS
Sat. 4:00 p.m. Feb. 3	SHERRIE GRIFFIN	CHERYL GUIDRY	JACKSON GUIDRY	MARY & RALPH CUROLE
Sunday 7:00 a.m. Feb. 4	BETH CHERAMIE	JEANETTE TERREBONNE	DOLORES GUIDRY	TONY DUET VOLUNTEER
Sunday 9:00 a.m. Feb. 4	KENNY LASSEIGNE	TRACY LASSEIGNE	LUKE CHERAMIE	DANNY MARTIN TRACY LASSEIGNE
Sunday 11:00 am Feb. 4	SULINA HEBERT	MARY BREAUX APRIL ROSAS	JAMES THIBODAUX	INGRID BRUCE MONIQUE BOUDREAUX

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Sat	8:30 am 1st Friday Mass/ with 1st Saturday Mass litany Sacred Heart of with Blessing of the Throats 9:30 am Hispanic Mtg. (SLP) Hispanic Youth Group Mtg (SLP) Maintenance	8:30 am Mass with Anointing of the Sick & their caregivers 4:00 pm Vigil Mass General Blessing of Married Couples at all Masses	17 4:00 pm Vigil Mass 2nd Collection Latin America/ Africa/Black/ Indian
Fri	8:30 am 1st Friday Mass/ with litany Sacred Heart of Jesus 9:30 am Hispanic Mtg. (SLP) 6:30-8:00 pm Hispanic Youth Group Mtg (SLP)	9 9:30 am Hispanic Mtg. (SLP) 6:30-8:00 pm Hispanic Youth Group Mtg (SLP)	8:30 am Mass & Way the Cross 6:00 pm Way of the Cross 9:30 am Hispanic Mtg. (SLP) 6:30-8:00 pm Hispanic Youth Group Mtg (SLP)
Thu	8:30 am Mass 7-9 pm Hispanic Choir Practice (SLC)	8 8:30 am Mass 7-9 pm Hispanic Choir Practice (SLC)	8:30 am Mass 7-9 pm Hispanic Choir Practice (SLC)
Wed		8:30 am Mass 7:00 pm Hispanic Alabanza 7:30-8:45 pm Hispanic RCIA	Ash Wednesday 8:30 am & 6:00 pm Mass & Distribu- tion of Ashes Distribution of Ashes 12:05 pm 7:30 pm Spanish Mass/Ashes
Tue	period fier	6:00 am Men's Bible Study 6:00 pm Novena Mass	6:00 am Men's Bible Study 8:30 am Novena Mass NO 6:00 PM MASS MARDI GRAS
Mon	Had Spea	5 6:00 pm Mass & Adoration 5:30—6:45 pm Rel. Ed Class for Grades 1-5	13 6:00 pm Mass 6:00 ar 6:00 ar 8:30 ar Novena Novena MAR MAR
Sun		4 7, 9 & 11 a.m. Mass 1:00 pm Spanish Mass	7, 9 & 11 a.m. Mass General Blessing of Married Couples at all Masses 1:00 pm Spanish Mass

	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
18 7, 9 & 11 a.m. Mass 6:00 pm Mass & Adoration 1:00 pm Spanish Mass 5:30—6:45 pm Rel. Ed Class f 2:00 pm Rel. Ed Class f Grades 1-5 Hispanic Choir Workshop (SLC)	or	20 6:00 am Men's Bible Study 6:00 pm Novena Mass	8:30 am Mass 8:30 am Mass 6:00 pm ALL EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS MTG 7:90 pm Hispanic Alabanza 7:30-8:45 pm Hispanic RCIA	Mass Choir (SLC)	8:30 am Mass & Way the Cross 6:00 pm Way of the Cross 9:30 am Hispanic Mtg. (SLP) 6:30-8:00 pm Hispanic Youth Group Mtg (SLP)	4:00 pm Vigil Mass COMMISSIONING OF EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS AT ALL MASSES
25 7, 9 & 11 a.m. Mass 6:00 pm Mass COMMISSIONING OF EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS AT ALL MASSES 1:00 pm Spanish Mass	26 6:00 pm Mass & Adoration	6:00 am Men's Bible Study 6:00 pm Novena Mass	8:30 am Mass 7:00 pm Hispanic Alabanza 7:30-8:45 pm Hispanic RCIA	8:30 am Mass 7-9 pm Hispanic Choir Practice (SLC)		

FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

What do You Want?

Jesus was starting to become very popular, at least with the ordinary people. They had seen how he had cured the sick and cast out demons. The gospel has one unusual sentence about those demons: Jesus did not let them speak "because they knew who he was." (Mk 1:34) Apparently, the demons would have identified him as the Son of God. Jesus knew the people would not understand this and try to proclaim him as their king. Jesus had no intention of living as a worldly king, in comfort and riches. In fact, he came to free people from needing wealth and power. Popularity and wealth do not interest St. Paul, either. When he preaches the gospel, the good news of Christ's resurrection (and ours), he needs no other recompense. (1 Cor 9:18) All he wants is to share eternal life. He specifically refuses to be paid for his preaching, to show that he will be rewarded by Christ. So what do you hope for; what is your goal in life? Do you only feel secure when you have saved enough money and invested it wisely? Do you need other people to make you happy? Or at least a few hundred Facebook friends? Or are you like Job in the first reading: having no hope of escaping a life of drudgery? He eventually found that only by trusting God can anyone be happy, even when things go wrong. We can follow Paul's example of love for all people no matter who they are. Paul's love was not to make others like him. He genuinely wanted to bring the good news to them: by his love for them, Paul showed that God loves them even more. He knew the gospel requires a change of heart, so his love for others helped them to be more open to change. Let us ask the Lord to fill us with his love, so that we can help each other to hear the good news.

Tom Schmidt

LOVE IN OUR WORKS

Our Lord does not care so much for the importance of our works as for the love with which they are done.

—Teresa of Ávila

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<u>Thursday – 02/01/24 – 8:30AM:</u> Gerald Angelette; Wilton, Annie, Marie & Roland Fonseca; Alzia & Noemie Terrebonne; Oneil & Lillie Guidry; Alex Triche

Friday – 02/02/24 – 8:30AM: Craig Callais; Werlin & Raymond LeBouef; Elaine Ezell; Becky Pierce; June Theriot; Lou Anne Allemand; Dolly Gisclair; Fr. Denis Mitchell; Fr. Alexander Levey

<u>1st Saturday - 02/03/24 - 8:30AM:</u> Living & Deceased of Sacred Heart; All Souls in Purgatory

<u>Saturday - 02/03/24 - 4:00PM:</u> Gilbert & Joyce Cheramie; Al & Mary Danos; Ruby Pierce; Louverda Chabert; Joe Crosby; Priscilla Brock; Rosemary Richard; Claudette David; Whitney Adams; Lolita Danos; Reilly Danos; Minola & Belton Badeaux; Joyce Griffin; Lucy & Willis Curole; Durac & Adelaide Gisclair; Donald Adams; Adams & Guidry Fly's.; Warren & Justilia Curole; Gaffie & Odalie Curole & Bouffanie Fly.; Fortuna, Duciana, Ulysse & Emma Hartman; Mary Ann & Vin Esponge; Ulysse & Philomene Terrebonne; M/ M Wesley Vizier; M/M Ben Vizier; M/M Leo Foret Sr.; Raymond, Glenn & Jules Melancon; Davidson & Camelia Lefort & Amelia; Ervin Duet; James Gordon; Erik Rasmussen; Odile & Olivier Angelette; Leon Bruce Jr.; Timothy & Gernice Bourg; Evola & Leon Bruce Sr.

<u>Sunday – 02/04/24 – 7:00AM:</u> Parish Family; Dean Williams; Raymond Williams Sr.; Richard & Estelle Williams; Edward & Eunice Pierce; Dudley & Hazel Callais; Ejay & Tin Rousse; Edna Cadiere; Doris Cochennic

9:00AM: Michael Pitre; Ulysse & Emma Hartman; Chris Danos; Lester & Marilyn Landry; Hector Martin Jr.; Betty Martin; Kathy Bruce; Robert Bruce 11:00AM: Sophie LeBlanc; Rachel Pierce; Zachary Savoie; Irvin Melancon; Deceased Members of L V Autin, Ellis Guidry & Romand Guidry Fly's.; Provis & Julia Esponge; Allen, Mia, Noah, Lucretia, & Anita Gisclair; Harold Lafont; Patsy Borne; Ronald Gisclair; Renia Danos; Linwood & Mae Esponge; Leroy, Marita & Myriel Doucet; Jim, Jory & Pat Pitre; Jimmy Sr., Eno Sr., & Alfica Allemand; Welton & Beulah Kiff

Monday – 02/05/24 – 6:00PM: Ronnie Pitre; Billy Christen; Ervin Duet; James Gordon; Norman Guidry; Maria Partida; Jesus Esteban; Souls in Purgatory

<u>Tuesday – 02/06/24 – 6:00PM:</u> Gilbert & Ouida Guidry; Terry & Gail Cheramie

<u>Wednesday – 02/07/24 – 8:30AM:</u> Pam Gravois; Thelma & James Alario

<u>Thursday – 02/08/24 – 8:30AM:</u> Bobby & Dora Mae Pinch

Friday -02/09/24 - No Mass

Saturday – 02/10/24 – 4:00PM: Chase Esponge; M/M Hubert Lafont Sr.; Ruby & Dookie LeBlanc; M/M Edmond Sandras Jr.; Doree Lasseigne; Dale & Brian Bouzigard; John & Armina Bychurch; Edgar & Evelia Bouzigard; Carol Frederick; M/M Julian Doucet; Leonise Doucet; M/M Policar Bychurch; Franklin & Nephta Lorraine; Edwis Callais; Nolan Bourgeois Jr.; Katrina Cheramie; Dana Bourgeois; Loveless Dantin; Weber, Estelle, Emma & Carolyn Callais; Louis & Gladys Guidry; Wade Bourg; Betty Bourg; Mary Messer; A J Arnone; Fr. John Arnone; Ernest & Leah Authement

<u>Sunday – 02/11/24 – 7:00AM:</u> Parish Family & Purgatorial Society; Clement, Sophie & Doris Boudreaux; Dorothy Gautreaux; Kylie Terrebonne; Walter, Isabel, George & Sherrie Guidry; John, Evida & Melvin Rodrigue; Freddie, Vina & Todd Plaisance; Jerry Klause; Bea Evans; Welton Curole; Hilda & Jessie Curole; Wava & Butch Bielkiewicz; M/M Gaffie Curole

<u>9:00AM:</u> Larbow Cheramie; Royce, Shirley & Dean Blanchard; Terri Chiasson; Cliff & Vergis Pitre; Lloyd & Lynn Duet; Harris & Isabelle Compeaux

11:00AM: Lucille & Harris Chabert Sr. & Fly.; Sourita & Tilman Griffin Sr. & Fly.; Edless, Anna Mae, Loveless & Marie Lafont; M/M Levy Cheramie; Alton & Madeline Danos; Anita Vizier; T-Jack Lafont; Roland Guidry; Carolyn Cheramie

Monday – 02/12/24 – 6:00PM: Alfred & Casey Ordoyne; Harris, Margaret & Steve Dufrene; Duciana Hartman; Norman Guidry; Souls in Purgatory

<u>Tuesday – 02/13/24 – 6:00PM:</u> Scat, Brent & Brandin Pitre, Alcide, Mary & Tommy Hebert, Anatole & Gloria Pitre

<u>Wednesday – 02/14/24 – 8:30AM:</u> Constant & Earline Pitre; Don & Greg Arabie; Ernest Theriot Sr.

<u>Thursday – 02/15/24 – 8:30AM:</u> Clifton, Stella & Wayne Leonard; Amie Belle Duet

<u>Friday -- 02/16/24 - 8:30AM Mass/Way of the</u> Cross; Souls in Purgatory

6:00PM: Way of the Cross

Saturday – 02/17/24 – 4:00PM: Aglonie & Rene' Cheramie; Priscilla & Bill Brock; Frances & Evans Chouest; Viness & Glorina Callais; Valmont & Norida St. Pierre; Gretchen Lerille; Davis & Shirley Plaisance; Deanna Gisclair; Roxie Toups; Gary Gisclair Jr.; Forest Plaisance; Ernest Sr., Ernest Jr. & Donna Jean Eschette; Lindbergh Martin; Dudley Terrebonne & Fly.; Dantin & Cheramie Fly's.; Herbert & Thelma Galjour; Roosevelt, Alice, Louise & Loyman Orgeron; Gery Sr. & Nage Galjour;

Ronald Sr., Kathleen & Ronald Savoie Jr.; Ellis, Daisy, Oray & Masie Savoie; Louis Griffin Jr.; Eva Terrebonne; Billie & Thomas Plaisance; Lefrey & Gertie Hebert; Jimmy & Linda Hebert; Gale Bouzigard; John & Mickey Rebstock; Audrey Hall; M/M Nolan Delaune

<u>Sunday - 02/18/24 - 7:00AM</u>: Parish Family; Dave, Eva, Loredia & Johnny Terrebonne; Octave Sr. & Amy Bruce; Eura Bruce Sr.; Ester Bourg; Ralph Bourg Sr.

9:00AM: Helen Martin; Fr. Francis Legendre; Raoul & Eva Martin; Loveless & Georgena Eymard; Nickey Maucle; Jules, Odile & Jared Melancon; Louis & Enez Eymard; Trish Barrios; Jules, Chris & Ashley Melancon

11:00AM: DeFelice Fly.; Fr. Legendre; Michael Segura; E J Adams; Henry, Ida, Dan & Kate DeFelice; Mark Theriot; Dustin Thomassie; Troy Brady; Robbie Istre; Edward Thibodaux; Linberth & Dot Pitre

<u>Monday – 02/19/24 – 6:00PM:</u> James Cheramie; Lauravie Danos; Nathan Mayet; Norman Guidry; Souls in Purgatory

<u>Tuesday – 02/20/24 – 6:00PM:</u> Margie & Edville Lorraine Sr.; M/M Emile Lorraine & Elvina; Sierra & Sloan Harman; M/M Leo Foret Sr., Leo Jr., Brian & Phyllis; Donna Eymard; Reilly Danos; Harold & Emelia Callais; Elizabeth Pruett; Gerald Cheramie

Wednesday - 02/21/24 - 8:30AM:

Thursday – 02/22/24 – 8:30AM: Durac & Adelaide Gisclair

<u>Friday - 02/23/24 - 8:30AM Mass/Way of the</u> <u>Cross;</u> Souls in Purgatory

Saturday – 02/24/24 – 4:00PM: Harris & Audrey Callais; /M Eves Chaisson; Ryan Falgout; Anna Claire Guidroz; M/M Octave Callais Sr.; M/M Linton Vegas Sr.; Linton Vegas Jr.; Luz France; M/M Elo Charpentier; Oscar & Jane Authement

<u>Sunday - 02/25/24 - 7:00AM:</u> Parish Family; Purgatorial Society; Richard Davenport; Sylvia Spaht; Lurey Terrebonne & Fly.; M/M Dudley Guidry

9:00AM: Parish Family; Purgatorial Society

<u>11:00AM:</u> Landry, Veleria & Verna Charpentier; Valfrous, Theresa & Kate Rousse; Mark Pregeant & Savoie Fly.

<u>Monday – 02/26/24 – 6:00PM</u>: Ervin, Elvin & Elda Duet; Norman Guidry; Souls in Purgatory

Tuesday – 02/27/24 – 6:00PM: Erik Rasmusssen Wednesday – 02/28/24 – 8:30AM: M/M Sidney Terrebonne & Sons, Raelynn & Janie Terrebonne; James, Scott & Troy Guidry; M/M Eves Plaisance Sr.; M/M Samson Guidry

<u>Thursday – 02/29/24 – 8:30AM:</u> Mercedes Pitre

EVERYONE IS SEARCHING FOR YOU

Ten years ago, I gave birth to our oldest son who was stillborn, but it feels like yesterday. It happened unexpectedly, without warning. At the time I thought I would never recover. How could I, as a mother, or wife, or human being?

God often uses painful & difficult circumstances to get our attention. C.S. Lewis wrote, "God whispers to us in our pleasures, speaks in our consciences, but shouts in our pains. It is his megaphone that rouses a deaf world." Our Lord had a passionate concern for the sick, the suffering, and the dying.

When others are sick we tend to ask why. It is through suffering that God's mercy and compassion are often the most paramount. In Dying with Dignity, St. John Paul II declares that "In our own time, Christ continues his mission, and his preference for the vulnerable, through his Church." He described the Church as "a patient advocate, working to ensure proper care for the sick and dying by promoting respect for their dignity. The Church is physician and nurse, the Good Samaritan who treats the wounded and abandoned and never walks by."

Today, my husband and I have children here on earth who live on to further our faith in Christ both in happy and difficult times. They are a sign of renewal. I have learned the hard way that we are not owed anything in life, whether it be a loving spouse, child, home, or health. These are all gifts from the Almighty, which He can give and take as only He understands.

The Gospel passage of Simon's mother-in-law teaches a similar lesson about faith. Through Christ's intervention for the sick, others come to search for Him and pursue Him. How blessed we are to serve as witnesses to Christ's love for the world through His glorious healing power!

By Alexis Dallara-Marsh

ATTENTION STEWARDSHIP ENVELOPE USERS

We are requesting that you please do not tape, staple, or cut your stewardship envelopes. The taping and stapling slows down our progress and the envelopes that are cut are very easy to misplace. Also, if you receive stewardship envelopes we are asking that you please use them rather than dropping your check in the collection basket. This slows us down as well as we have to stop and look up your number for posting so that you can have an accurate statement at the end of the year for tax purposes. Please call Mary at the Rectory office if you have any questions.

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