

**Presentation of the Lord—February 2nd**

The feast was first observed in the Eastern Church as "The Encounter." In the sixth century, it began to be observed in the West: in Rome with a more penitential character and in Gaul (France) with solemn blessings and processions of candles, popularly known as "Candlemas." The Presentation of the Lord concludes the celebration of the Nativity and with the offerings of the Virgin Mother and the prophecy of Simeon, the events now point toward Easter.

"In obedience to the Old Law, the Lord Jesus, the first-born, was presented in the Temple by his Blessed Mother and his foster father. This is another 'epiphany' celebration insofar as the Christ Child is revealed as the Messiah through the canticle and words of Simeon and the testimony of Anna the prophetess. Christ is the light of the nations, hence the blessing and procession of candles on this day. In the Middle Ages this feast of the Purification of the Blessed Virgin Mary, or 'Candlemas,' was of great importance.

"The specific liturgy of this Candlemas feast, the blessing of candles, is not as widely celebrated as it should be, except of course whenever February 2 falls on a Sunday and thus takes precedence. There are two ways of celebrating the ceremony, either the *Procession*, which begins at a 'gathering place' outside the church, or the *Solemn Entrance*, celebrated within the church."

—From *Ceremonies of the Liturgical Year*

(via *CatholicCulture.org*)

*~The 9am Daily Mass on Thursday, February 2nd is the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord. The Mass will be celebrated in the church and a blessing of candles will take place before the Mass. If you would like your candles blessed, please come a little earlier before Mass to place your candles at the entrance of the church for the blessing.~*

**St. Blaise—February 3rd**

St. Blaise was a physician and Bishop of Sebaste, Armenia. He lived in a cave on Mount Argeus and was a healer of men and animals. According to legend, sick animals would come to him on their own for help, but would never disturb him at prayer.

Agricola, governor of Cappadocia, came to Sebaste to persecute Christians. His huntsmen went into the forests of Argeus to find wild animals for the arena games, and found many waiting outside Blaise's cave. Discovered in prayer, Blaise was arrested, and Agricola tried to get him to recant his faith. While in prison, Blaise ministered to and healed fellow prisoners, including saving a child who was choking on a fish bone; this led to the blessing of throats on Blaise's feast day.

Thrown into a lake to drown, Blaise stood on the surface and invited his persecutors to walk out and prove the power of their gods; they drowned. When he returned to land, he was martyred by being beaten, his flesh torn with wool combs (which led to his association with and patronage of those involved in the wool trade), and then beheading.

Blaise has been extremely popular for centuries in both the Eastern and Western Churches and many cures were attributed to him, notably that of a child who was suffocating through a fish bone being caught in his throat. In 1222 the Council of Oxford prohibited servile labour in England on his feast. He is one of the Fourteen Holy Helpers. He is invoked for all throat afflictions, and on his feast two candles are blessed with a prayer that God will free from all such afflictions and every ill all those who receive this blessing.

—Excerpted from *The Church's Year of Grace*, Pius Parsch

(via *CatholicCulture.org*)

*St. Mary's Little Lambs will have an open house Monday, Jan.30th 4:30pm – 6:30pm (Snow Date: Tue., Jan. 31st)*

**Liturgical Volunteers for February 4th/5th, 2023**

Mass	Lector	Altar Servers
4:00pm	T. WEBB	—————
8:30am	M. LATINI	A. WITKOWSKI, M. HOCKENBERRY
11:30am	*****	T., N. RICKARD

St. Mary's Food Pantry will be distributing food on Friday, February 3rd from 10am until noon. If you or anyone you know needs assistance with food, please have them come during those times.

St. Joseph's Table Community Dinner will be serving a sit-down dinner on Friday, February 10th from 5pm until 7pm in the Most Sacred Heart Hall.

We are currently selling monthly lottery tickets for the month of February. They're \$10 /each and you can win multiple times. All proceeds go towards church improvements.

The next All You Can Eat Breakfast will TODAY Sunday, January 29th from 8am until 11:15am. Cost \$12 adults/\$8 Children under 12, under 5 FREE!

*There is a Holy Hour and confessions on Mondays in the Chapel from 5:30pm to 6:30pm.*

Boy Scout Troop # 173 will have their annual Chili fundraiser on Sat, Feb. 11th and Sun, Feb 12th

Camp Veritas is a week-long sleep away Catholic summer camp for middle school and high school students. Our Junior Catholic Daughters are happy to announce that they will be awarding 5-\$50.00 scholarships to students planning on attending Camp Veritas this summer. For more information and scholarship application email: [JCDACourtMadonna114@gmail.com](mailto:JCDACourtMadonna114@gmail.com). To learn more about Camp Veritas: [campveritas.org](http://campveritas.org). Scholarship applications must be received no later than March 3, 2023.

**Respect Life Corner:** "The Church is close to those married couples who, with great anguish and suffering, willingly accept gravely handicapped children. She is also grateful to all those families which, through adoption, welcome children abandoned by their parents because of disabilities of disabilities or illness." Pope St. John Paul II, *The Gospel of Life*, 70

SOUPer Bowl 2023: HELP US TACKLE HUNGER IN OUR COMMUNITY!!! Please join us by supporting our 3rd annual SOUPer Bowl food drive, & help us stock St. Mary's Food Pantry by voting for your favorite team!! We will be collecting non-perishable items in the narthex from January 30th through February 12th, & there will also be a few other drop-off locations throughout the community. This friendly competition allows each participant to vote for the team they feel will win Super Bowl LVII. We will have a clearly label box for each team at each location. Kindly place your donation in the box for the team of your choice. Each donated item will count as a point for that team. Monetary donations are also accepted; each \$1 contributed will be counted as a point. Food items must be non-perishable and not have expired dates. Personal items such as those used for hygiene as well as dish & laundry detergent are also welcomed!! The winning team with the most votes will be posted in the bulletin and on the Facebook pages of all participating locations!! If you have any questions please contact Lynnlee Ennis at (845) 754-6022. Thank you so much for your support!!!

## MASS INTENTIONS

- **Saturday, Jan. 28 (Thomas Aquinas, priest & doctor of the Church)**
  - 4:00pm – Monika Haering, r/b Hannelore Kucher
- **Sunday, Jan. 29**
  - 8:30am – Albert and Thelma Gonsalves, r/b David & Violet Dhaniram
  - 11:30am – The parishioners of St. Mary's
  - 1:00pm – Int. of Zdzislaw Wygonowski, r/b the family
- **Monday, Jan. 30**
  - 9:00am – William Siemers, r/b Jean Brock
  - Robert Witherow, r/b Lissner family
- **Tuesday, Jan. 31 (John Bosco, priest)**
  - 9:00am – Bill Schull, r/b Lukacz family
- **Wednesday, Feb. 1**
  - 9:00am – Ernest J. Sartor, Sr., r/b Jane Oakley
  - Danielle Devore, r/b Eleanor Brady
- **Thursday, Feb. 2 (Presentation of the Lord)**
  - 9:00am – Int. of Patricia Schull, r/b Jane & John Lukacz
- **Friday, Feb. 3 (Blaise, bishop and martyr; Ansgar, bishop)**
  - 11:30am – Fr. Joachim Olendzki and Fr. Thomas Curley, r/b Nelligan family
- **Saturday, Feb. 4**
  - 4:00pm – The parishioners of St. Mary's
- **Sunday, Feb. 5**
  - 8:30am – Deceased members of the Carmody & Darcy family, r/b Walt and Eileen
  - 11:30am – Karl Haering family, r/b Hannelore Kucher
  - 1:00pm – *Hungarian Mass*

**PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK:** Catherine Simons, Ken Mundy, Brittany Vleck, Allen Lynch, Gloria Hicks, Eppie Harford, Stephanie Gaide, Stephen Angiuto, Rosemary Marcolina, Christine Haberzettl, Susan Upton, Charles Hildebrandt, Patricia Meinhold, John F. Flynn, Jr., James Roach, Robin Radzikowski, Angie Gardner, Michael Barnes, William Lincoln, James Lincoln, Donald Wolff, Beverly Brito, AnaLucia DeFazio, Pyrrha DeFazio, Titan DeFazio, Walter Szpakowicz, Debi Cotugno, Lawrence Cotugno, Dick Drew, Barbara Drew, Donna Mann, Pat Essing, Maria Henn, and Joan Reid.

**Catholic in Recovery-** Has your faith walk with Jesus been impaired due to your or others behavior, compulsion, or addiction? Do you have trouble letting go of vices that keep you from focusing on God? **CATHOLIC IN RECOVERY** is a 12 Step Recovery program about addressing these issues which allows you to focus on and hear God's voice and to follow him. You can begin or continue your recovery journey by attending a meeting. All meetings are anonymous. *Monday 6:30-7:30*  
OUR LADY QUEEN OF PEACE 209 Rt. 206 South Branchville, NJ and Saturday (beginning Feb 4th) 10:30am  
OUR LADY OF THE LAKE ST JOSEPH ROOM 294 Sparta Ave. Sparta, NJ Contact Rita W. (201) 874-0362 for more info.

The collection for January 21st/22nd was \$4,825.  
Thank you for your continued generosity.