

# Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

January 29, 2017

Vol. XXXIII, No. 5

## Window Washing

I do not do windows! Is that not a set line for house cleaners, maids and even homeowners these days? Nobody wants the tedious job of scrubbing endless squares of glass, inside and out, to make a spotless view that lasts only until it rains again. It is a repetitive, weary task, where the results seem to disappear before we have even finished the job.

It is the same when cleaning the windows of our hearts. Daily, even hourly some sin, some petty selfishness blocks the view, darkening our freshly scrubbed souls. We notice that grubby spot of jealousy and attack it with a good rub of confession, only to find a smear of greed or malice. Even in seasons of intense self-denial and piety, we find the glass fogged with spiritual pride. It is a tough job clearing those windows again and again, but God has promised a special blessing for those who stick to it. Blessed are the clean of heart, He tells us, for they will see God. Take a look through the windows of your heart today. Can you see Him or could you use a good spring cleaning?



## Candlemas Day February 2

On Candlemas Day, candles used by the faithful in their homes throughout the year are blessed by the priest. This blessing will take place following the 8:00 a.m. Mass on Thursday. The blessed candles will be placed on the table beside the Sacristy and will be accessible to parishioners for a donation of \$2.00 each. Blessed candles are available as individually bottled vigil lights.



## First Friday & Feast Of St. Blaise

### February 3

Mass will be celebrated at 8:00 a.m. on First Friday in honor of The Most Blessed Sacrament. At the conclusion of Mass, **Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament** will begin and continue until **Benediction** at 5:00 p.m. **Sign-up sheets for Adorers are at church's main entrance.**



The Feast of St. Blaise, bishop and martyr, is celebrated on February 3. The traditional Blessing of Throats will take place following the First Friday Mass.

## Offertory Giving

In today's Gospel, Jesus begins his Sermon on the Mount with a series of blessings, the Beatitudes. The Beatitudes are a summary of the fundamental attitude of a Christian steward. Make it a point to reflect on this Gospel reading during the week. Identify the blessing you relate to the most. Which one is the most challenging for you?

<b>Weekly Budgeted Need</b>	<b>\$7,100.00</b>
<b>Last Sunday Jan. 22</b>	
Envelopes (Adult)	\$5,033.00
Loose	542.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$5,575.00</b>
<b>Progress Report</b>	
Cumulative Budget	\$213,000.00
Cumulative Income	216,233.35
<b>Ahead</b>	<b>\$3,233.35</b>

## Collection For St. Joseph's Altar

Members of the St. Joseph's Altar Guild will accept monetary contributions next weekend after all Masses at church entrances.



## What Price Happiness?

Are you happy? Were you happy yesterday? When was the last time you were happy for a whole week? Last year's vacation in a condo on the beach? For most of us, unless we have recently survived a heart attack and are happy just to be alive, happiness is associated with certain people or circumstances or environments. We often mistakenly think that physical pleasure or emotional excitement is a lasting source of happiness. Then too late we realize the price is more than we can afford. In today's reading, the Lord offers an alternative pathway to happiness: eight attitudes of the heart and spirit which result in the only happiness that lasts. We call them the Beatitudes. Are you willing to consider a different kind of happiness than the one you are used to? It is offered freely; but beware—following the Beatitudes may cost you your whole self.

## Pope Francis's Mission Intention

"That all Christians may be faithful to the Lord's teaching by striving with prayer and fraternal charity to restore ecclesial communion and by collaborating to meet the challenges facing humanity."

**Mass Intentions Requested**

**Monday, January 30**

(Heb 11:32-40; Mk 5:1-20)

No Mass Scheduled

**Tuesday, January 31**

(Heb 12:1-4; Mk 5:21-43)

8:00 a.m. Altar Society Members  
Living & Deceased



**Wednesday, February 1**

(Heb 12:4-7, 11-15; Mk 6:1-6)

6:30 p.m. Purgatorial Society

**Thursday, February 2 Presentation of the Lord**

(Mal 3:1-4; Heb 2: 14-18; Lk 2:22-40)

8:00 a.m. Yvonne Tracey

**Friday, February 3 Feast of St. Blaise**

(Heb 13:1-8; Mk 6:14-29)

8:00 a.m. Imelda Gares

**Saturday, February 4**

(Heb 13:15-17, 20-21; Mk 6:30-34)

5:00 p.m. Doris Bourgeois, Rosemary Poche, Tina Mangano, Ken & Adele Salzer, Louis Mangano Sr. & Jr., Lee & Yvonne Tracey, Roszczynialski Family, Nancy McCann, Altar Society Members, Ed & Audrey Braud, Marie S. Herty, Evelyn Lewellen, Eugene Blanchard Jr., Robert Wayne Maureau, Annarita Drake, Joseph D'Antonia Jr.

**Sunday, February 5**

(Is 58:7-10; 1 Cor 2:1-5; Mt 5:13-16)

7:00 a.m. Maurice Bersuder, Sr.

8:30 a.m. Burnick Terrebonne Sr., Calvin Callais, Louis C. Funel Jr., Andrew Lambert, Ronnie & Betty Lambert, Adele Salzer, Margaret Clayton, Wayne Maiorana, Ethel Ann Angell, Valdeana Bauer, Chad Chadwell

10:30 a.m. Parishioners

Smith

**WEEKLY EVENTS**

**Women's Spirituality**—Sunday at 11:30 a.m. in St. Anthony Hall

**Legion of Mary**—Monday 7:00 p.m. in St. Anthony Hall

**Altar Society**—Pray the Rosary Tuesday following the 8:00 a.m. Mass and St. Jude Novena. Afterwards, monthly meeting will be held in the Parish Hall.

**Tuesday Morning Rosary**—Tuesday after the 8:00 a.m. Mass and the St. Jude Novena in St. Anthony Hall

**RCIA Tracks I & II**—Tuesday at 7:00 p.m. in classrooms

**Knights of Columbus**—Wednesday at 7:00 p.m. after Mass in St. Anthony Hall

**Patriotic Rosary**—Thursday at 7:00 p.m. in the Church

**St. Joseph's Altar Guild**—Baking for the St. Joseph's Altar, celebrated Saturday, March 18, has started. If you are interested in this ministry, baking will be on Saturdays from 9:00 a.m. to noon in the Parish Hall. No experience is necessary, just enthusiasm and dedication.



Please use special envelopes designated for St. Joseph's Altar located at entrances to the church for your monetary contribution.

**Confirmation Registration—Parent & Candidate Meeting**—Sunday, February 5, at 11:30 a.m. in the Parish Hall. Candidates in the 10th grade in CCD or Catholic school need to attend with at least one parent. These classes are one of the requirements for those planning to receive the sacrament of Confirmation in the fall.

**2016 Income Tax Statements**



Will you need a statement of 2016 contributions to the church for income tax purposes? If so, please call the Church Office at 985-863-7935, extension 3, and request yours. Since not everyone has a need for a statement, we do not automatically mail one. The exception would be those who issued a check in an amount \$250 or over, as we are mandated by the IRS to issue a statement. Those who call will have their names put on a list, and a statement prepared as soon as possible. Our bookkeeper hopes to have these ready for mailing or pick-up (*please state your choice*) as soon as it is

**Tabernacle Lamp**

This week the Tabernacle lamp in the Sanctuary burns in memory of the **Deceased Members of the Knights of Columbus.**



**Pray For The Sick**

Valdeana Bauer, Audrey Bonnet, Diana Bradshaw, JoAnn Brewin, George & Wanda Butko, May Caballero, Patricia Cuccia, Dotsy Chedville, Deacon Pat Downey, Steve Dunn, Marcelle Ernewein, Carroll Fourcade, Jeanette Gomez, Deacon John Howard, Virgie Hurstell, Allen & Joan Jagneaux, Maria Kalcic, Gloriette Kiern, Elizabeth Kittel, Pat Langsford, Cheryl Martin, Shirley Matthews, Rose Mire, Vito Montalabano, Jessie O'Dell, Cheryl Poiroux, Robert Reinecke, Ed Roszczynialski, Cathy

## Parish Support For Catholic Schools

It is the responsibility of every Catholic to support Catholic education. This is clear from Church teaching and the Code of Canon Law. *The Long Range Plan* mandates that each parish must help support the Catholic parochial elementary schools which are attended by children of the home parish. For parents or legal guardians to qualify for payment of this fee, families must be **REGISTERED, ACTIVE, AND SUPPORTING** members of that parish. Each parish is allowed to define for itself what “registered,” “active,” and “supporting” mean. In consultation with the church Finance Committee and the Pastor, the following definitions have been established to qualify for support from our Parish:

**REGISTERED:** Parents or legal guardians who live within or outside parish boundaries and who have a parish census form on file are considered registered in Sts. Peter and Paul.

**ACTIVE:** Parents or legal guardians are considered active if they **regularly** fulfill their Sunday and Holy day obligations by attending Mass at Sts. Peter and Paul Church. It is expected that they have participated in at least one parish organization, work activity, or liturgical ministry in the previous year. Mass attendance will be verified by the record of their regular use of the parish envelope system.

**NOTE WELL:** Simply dropping a child off for Mass with a Sunday envelope, or mailing the envelopes to the Parish Office is unacceptable to be considered an active member of this Church Parish.

**SUPPORTING:** Parents or guardians are considered supporting members of Sts. Peter and Paul Parish when they contribute a minimum of \$780.00 annually or \$15 a week, using the envelope system or a recordable method in Offertory Giving. The Parish Finance Committee, in consultation with the pastor, will make the final determination concerning the fulfillment of these requirements by each family. If a family with students in a Catholic parochial elementary school is judged not to qualify, the parents will be responsible for paying the voucher. Those who have fulfilled these criteria during the past year will have their voucher filled for the 2017-2018 school year. Those who have not must begin fulfilling their obligations to the Parish, if they wish the Church Parish to fill their voucher for the 2017-2018 academic year.

It is realized that these criteria may seem stringent to some. We wholeheartedly and gladly support Catholic schools; however, it is simply not fair to those who continuously and sacrificially support the Parish to have to pay for the Catholic schooling of those families who are “Catholic” only as a matter of convenience and who contribute little or nothing to our community of faith.

## Golden Wedding Anniversary Service

The Archdiocesan Golden Wedding Anniversary celebration will take place Sunday, June 15, at 3:00 p.m. at St. Philip Neri Church, Metairie. This year’s celebration will not be a Mass, but a Prayer Service. Mass attendance for Sunday obligation will have to be met within one’s respective parish. Contact the Church Office at 863-7935, ext. 3, **before February 25** to register in order for us to make a reservation with the Archdiocese for you.



## Social Media Silence—February 8

Once again the Archdiocesan Respect Life Office will sponsor a Day of Social Media Silence to bring awareness to the crime of Human Trafficking in our city, country and world. On February 8, all social media accounts of the Archdiocese will go silent from midnight to 11:59 p.m. in “solidarity with those who are silenced” using the very tool that human traffickers most often use to do their heinous business. All parishes, schools and ministries of the archdiocese as well as all Catholics and members of the community are invited to join in this social media fast reminding ourselves for this one day, “Don’t post; pray” for the victims, sellers and buyers involved in human trafficking.

## All Denominational Women’s Retreat

Please join us March 10-12 for the All Denominational Women’s Retreat at Rosaryville Spiritual Life Center, Ponchatoula. This event, open to women of all denominations, is focused on strengthening your relationship with Jesus. Dr. JoAnn Forbes, our dynamic leader and Bible teacher, is a true worship leader, called by God, whose gifts of music, singing and speaking bridge the gaps between ages, genders, cultures and economic and social differences. The cost is \$150.00 for commuter, double shared room \$250.00 or single private room \$300.00. To register, call 225-294-5039 or email [sdavis@oppeace.org](mailto:sdavis@oppeace.org)

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## Catholic Schools Collection

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

As we celebrate Catholic Schools Week, I cannot help but remember a theme that came up time and time again at our synod listening sessions two years ago: “We must make Catholic schools more affordable.” The question is : How do we do that?

The answer is complex. Catholic schools are not in it for the money; however, teachers must be paid a fair wage, classrooms and facilities must be kept up to date, and schools must work hard to become centers of academic excellence rooted in the Catholic faith. In other words, I do not know how we can make Catholic schools “more affordable.” I do, however, know that we can make them more available. How? By offering financial support in the mission and ministry of Catholic education in the Archdiocese of New Orleans.

Our schools need the support of everyone in the community—whether you have children in Catholic schools or not. It is the mission of every Catholic to foster the Kingdom of God and help form disciples who will live our Christian faith. Catholic schools are crucial to these efforts. Every parish in the Archdiocese of New Orleans will take up a second collection January 28-29 to support Catholic schools, and I ask each of you to be as generous as you can.

The money collected this weekend will support the Champions of Catholic Education fund in the Archdiocese of New Orleans. This fund will provide assistance to children whose families cannot afford Catholic school tuition, thus making Catholic education more available to more children. Our Catholic schools and our Catholic parents need your support. We get many requests and do our best to assist as many as we are able.

Wishing you God’s blessings and with gratitude for your generosity, I am,  
Sincerely in Christ,



Most Rev. Gregory M. Aymond  
Archdiocese of New Orleans

## Presentation Of The Child Jesus-Feb. 2

The second day in February is the Feast of the Presentation of the Child Jesus in the Temple (*Luke 2:22-38*), which is also called the feast of the Purification of the Blessed Virgin. Another name for this popular feast is Candlemas, celebrated on the day before the Feast

of St. Blaise when Catholics get their throats blessed.

Forty days after His birth, Mary and Joseph brought Jesus to the Temple of Jerusalem to present Him to the Lord as the law of Moses prescribed. They carried with them the usual offering of the poor, a pair of turtle doves. The law of Moses commanded that the first-born male child should be offered to God in thanksgiving for the sparing, by the exterminating angel, of the Israelites in Egypt.

The law also prescribed that on the fortieth day after the birth of her child a mother should offer a sacrifice of purification from legal stain; namely, a lamb and a young pigeon or should she be poor, a pair of young pigeons or turtle doves.

At the time of presentation and purification, there was in the Temple a just and God-fearing man named Simeon, who recognized the infant Messiah, and taking Him in his arms declared Him the Savior, the Light of the Gentiles and the Glory of Israel.

White candles are blessed during or after Mass on February 2, and people use these at home when praying, asking for God’s assistance especially during a time of anxiety, distress, calamity, war, dangerous weather or illness—and when a priest is called to administer one of the seven sacraments—the Anointing of the Sick (formerly called Extreme Unction), these candles are lit before the Priest enters the home.

*Lives of the Saints*

## Feast Of St. Blaise-Feb. 3

St. Blaise, a bishop and martyr of the fourth century, was a physician before becoming a priest and then a bishop. He was made Bishop of Sebaste in Armenia, where he was seized and carried off to prison by Agricolous, the Governor.



On the way to prison, a mother whose child was suffering from a disease of the throat implored his aid. At his intercession the child was cured, and since that time his aid has been solicited in cases of similar disease. After cruel tortures the saint was beheaded in the year 316. Through his intercession many have been cured of throat diseases.

Catholics walk up the aisle to have their throats blessed after Mass. The priest holds two blessed candles in a crisscross fashion around the throat of each individual, while praying: “Through the intercession of St. Blaise, Bishop and Martyr, may you be delivered from every ailment of the throat and from every other evil, in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.” *Lives of the Saints*