

Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

FR. MICHAEL SA YS.....

This **Monday** is the **feast of the Presentation of the Lord**. If you still have some Christmas decorations up at your house, don't worry - this was once considered the end of the Christmas season. Here's some interesting history from FranciscanMedia.org:

At the end of the fourth century, a woman named Etheria made a pilgrimage to Jerusalem. Her journal, discovered in 1887, gives an unprecedented glimpse of liturgical life there. Among the celebrations she describes is the Epiphany, the observance of Christ's birth, and the gala procession in honor of his Presentation in the Temple 40 days later.

Under the Mosaic Law, a woman was ritually "unclean" for 40 days after childbirth, when she was to present herself to the priests and offer sacrifice—her "purification." Contact with anyone who had brushed against mystery—birth or death—excluded a person from Jewish worship. This feast emphasizes Jesus' first appearance in the Temple more than Mary's purification.

The observance spread throughout the Western Church in the fifth and sixth centuries. Because the Church in the West celebrated Jesus' birth on December 25, the Presentation was moved to February 2, 40 days after Christmas.

At the beginning of the eighth century, Pope Sergius inaugurated a candlelight procession; at the end of the same century the blessing and distribution of candles which continues to this day became part of the celebration, giving the feast its popular name: Candlemas.

In Luke's account, Jesus was welcomed in the temple by two elderly people, Simeon and the widow Anna. They embody Israel in their patient expectation; they acknowledge the infant Jesus as the long-awaited Messiah. Early references to the Roman feast dub it the feast of Saint Simeon, the old man who burst into a song of joy which the Church still sings at day's end [in Night Prayer, a part of the liturgy of the hours].

On **Tuesday** this week, we will celebrate the **feast of St. Blaise** - a bishop who was martyred in Armenia in the early 300s.

Blaise is associated with illnesses of the throat because of a story in which a child was able to cough up the fish bone he was choking on a the saint's command. The use of candles in giving the blessing on this feast day is tied to the celebration of Candlemas the day before.

*May God bless you for your
goodness to His Church for the week of
Jan. 24th, 2026*

(BLS)

Adult Envelopes	\$4,392.00
Children's Envelopes	\$1.00
Candles	\$0
SVdP	\$240.00
Improvement Fund	\$195.00
Loose	\$167.00

(OLL)

Adult Envelopes	\$210.00
Children's Envelopes	\$0
Candles	\$0
SVdP	\$0
Improvement Fund	\$0
Loose	\$0

It is always important to remember that Catholics are not trying to practice magic. Magical thinking would say that if we say the right words and use the right candles, somehow our throats won't get sick. What we really do is a blessing that asks for the prayers of a St. Blaise, a human being who intercedes to the Lord on our behalf. The symbolism of the candles helps us to understand what we're doing when we pray.

Online Giving

We now have Online Giving available for our parishes. Simply use these QR codes or go to our parish website (wintersvilleparishes.org) and go to "Giving."

Blessed Sacrament:

Our Lady of Lourdes:



Legion of Mary: Do you want to grow deeper in your Catholic faith and serve Our Lord through Our Lady? The Legion of Mary invites men and women to join us in prayer, fellowship, and active apostolic work.

To learn more, come to upper Sargus Hall on **Sunday, February 8, at 1:00pm** or for more information, contact Bob Turk at 740-317-8005

WEEKLY MASS INTENTIONS

Sat.	Jan. 31	Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time John DiBenedetto (Kathy & Rob)
4:30pm	(BLS)	
Sun	Feb. 1	Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time Nino Camerlango (Norouzi family)
8:00am	(BLS)	
9:30am	(OLL)	John Wayne Gates (Vicki & Rick Brozka)
11:00am	(BLS)	Living & deceased members of our Wintersville parishes
Mon.	Feb. 2	The Presentation of the Lord Jean Morelli (Charlie Manfresca)
8:00am	(BLS)	
Tues.	Feb. 3	St. Blaise, Bishop & Martyr Carl Stasiulewicz {Anniv} (Barb)
8:00am	(BLS)	
Wed.	Feb. 4	Weekday Barbara & Robert Caputo (Carol Caputo)
8:00am	(BLS)	
5:30pm	(BLS)	Adoration & Prayer
Thurs	Feb. 5	St. Agatha, Virgin & Martyr Sally & Janice Kuhel (Michael & Susan Waldstein)
8:00am	(BLS)	
5:15pm	(BLS)	Scotchie & Joanna Controguerra (Mara DiGregory)
Fri.	Feb. 6	St. Paul Miki & Companions, Martyrs Roger Wells (Tony Tiberio)
8:00am	(BLS)	
Sat.	Feb. 7	Weekday Patricia Recinella (husband, Tony & family)
8:00am	(BLS)	
Sat.	Feb. 7	Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time Living & deceased members of our Wintersville parishes
4:30pm	(BLS)	
Sun.	Feb. 8	Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time Bonnie Kaine (husband, Bob)
8:00am	(BLS)	
9:30am	(OLL)	Jason Boulson & Cora O'Connell (father, & husband, James)
11:00am	(BLS)	Shirley Huscroft (Janet Orler)

UPCOMING SACRAMENTS

at BLESSED SACRAMENT

FIRST RECONCILIATION: Saturday, April 18th
11:00am, at BLS

FIRST COMMUNION: Sunday, May 5th at the
11:00am Mass at BLS

There will be a **PARENT MEETING** for **ALL CHILDREN** (Parochial school, home-schooled & Parish School of Religion) **ELIGIBLE FOR THESE SACRAMENTS** on **Wednesday, Feb. 25, at 7:00pm** in upper Sargus Hall.

It is **very important that you** make every effort to attend!

CONFIRMATION: Friday, March 27, 7:00pm
at BLS

More information regarding this sacrament will be forthcoming in the bulletin.



**Remember in your prayers the intentions
of our Holy Father, Pope Leo**

FEBRUARY

(For Children with Incurable Diseases)

Let us pray that children suffering from incurable diseases and their families receive the necessary medical care and support, never losing strength and hope.



LITURGICAL MINISTRIES

February 7th & February 8th

Saturday 2/7 **4:30pm**

Lector: Lew Musso

EMOCH: Lou DiGregory

Altar servers: Aiden Marrow & John Hendricks

Sunday 2/8 **8:00am**

Lector: Tony Corella

EMOHC: Patty Doyle

Altar servers: Mateo Vitello

(OLL) **9:30am**

Lector: Lori Mayher

Altar servers: (Volunteer)

11:00am

Lector: Dino & Rose Orsatti

EMOHC: Rob Zaleski

Altar servers: Zaleskis & Isayas Banga

If you are unable to be at your designated ministry when you are scheduled, it is your responsibility to find a replacement. Thank you! Please don't just not show up.

PARISH NEWS / EVENTS



IN THE HOSPITAL: as of Thurs. Jan. 29th:

No one as of the above date

PARISH SECRETARY OPENING:

Full-time. Monday thru Friday 8:30am to 3:30pm
Qualifications: practicing Roman Catholic; (preferably a member of our Wintersville parishes); excellent interpersonal communication skills; skilled in Microsoft Word, Excel and QuickBooks; familiar with social media inputting, and ability to honor and maintain strict confidentiality.

Prior experience in administrative / secretarial work preferred. Email resume to wintersvilleparishes.org. Full job description and salary (based on experience) will be provided during the interview.

FYI: A parish accountability group for Catholic men who are struggling with pornography is available at Blessed Sacrament Parish in Wintersville. The leader of the group will interview each man who wishes to attend.

If you would like to attend, please email blessedsacrament7pillars@gmail.com.

WE STILL NEED UPDATED CONTACT INFORMATION:



If your address has recently changed or you no longer have a "land line" and use only cell phones, and have an emial address, could you please let us know so we can have all our information as up to date as possible? Thank you! Parish office: 740-264-0868

SARRIS EASTER CANDY SALE: BJKM Elementary school is **raising funds for a much-needed playground for our ever-growing Pre-school classes**. If you are thinking of purchasing any Easter candy this year, won't you please consider purchasing from us as this fundraiser will see 25% of your total purchase cost returned to our school for this project. 25%!!!

All you need to do is:

Go online to Sarriscandiesfundraising.com

Click on "Shop now" (it's in bold gray letters)

A pop-up will appear asking "Supporting an online fundraiser?" Yes!

In the box, enter the **BJKM ID # 10-0706**

Begin looking at all the many delicious items they offer for purchase and make your selections. (You do not have to enter a student's name for the sale)

When you are finished, you may check out and have the order sent directly to your home!

You do not have to do anything else. How great and easy is that! We will automatically receive the 25% credit for the sale! **Thank you so much for supporting our Catholic school for this worthwhile project!!**

CHESTERTON ACADEMY INFORMATION NIGHT at Catholic Central: Will be on **Thursday, Feb. 19, from 7:00pm – 9:00pm in room #222.**

NFP (Natural Family Planning) **in-person, full instruction** through the Couple to Couple League (CCL), will begin on **Wednesday, Feb. 11, at 5:00pm, in room 109, inside Sts. Cosmas & Damian Hall, on the FUS campus.** Each session will be 2-3 hours in length.

Register here: www.learnnfp.org/find-live-onsite-class/

There are also NFP Intro sessions available (Creighton model – not full method instruction) online: Thursday, Feb. 12 at 8:30pm.

