



HOLY TRINITY PARISH

Hudson and Germantown, New York
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January 28, 2018

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4TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



REV. ANTHONY BARRATT
Pastor

DEACON RICHARD WASHBURN
Deacon

REV. WINSTON BATH
Pastor Emeritus

THE PRESENTATION OF JESUS (CANDLEMAS) AND THE FEAST OF ST. BLAISE (THE BLESSING OF THROATS)

In our Church calendar, February 2nd (this coming Friday) marks an important feast: the Presentation of Jesus. Mary and Joseph take Jesus to the great temple in Jerusalem to “present him” as was the Jewish custom. It was a living memorial of what God had done for His people in liberating them from slavery in Egypt (Exodus 13: 2-13). In the Temple, Jesus, Mary and Joseph meet two people, Anna and Simeon. Simeon recognizes who Jesus is: “one who is destined for the falling and rising of many” and he also prophesizes that a sword will pierce Mary’s soul. He hails Jesus as the saviour who is to come, the light to enlighten the gentiles and so, he says, he can now go to his final rest in peace. Anna too gives thanks to God and tells everyone that she meets about the child Jesus.

The feast also became associated with the blessing of candles that were to be used in the church during the year and so the feast also became known as “Candlemas”. It reflects the two encounters that we have just reflected upon: Jesus who brings light to the darkness, just a candle does and as the one whose light searches out and makes things clear, again, just as the light from a candle can do in a darkened room. There is much to reflect upon on this feast, but perhaps we can focus on one particular thing; that is to take this opportunity to renew our understanding of why we still use candles in church, even when we have electric lights...

We use candles in the church for many reasons. Of course originally, they were the only form of lighting apart from oil lamps, but even before the advent of gas lighting and then electricity, the use of candles and the light that they give always had a symbolic meaning too. Candles provide a living flame that burns bright, as does God’s love and presence in our lives and as we should be too: to bring God’s light to the world. Candles provide that light but at the cost of consuming themselves: this can remind us of Jesus’ sacrifice for us but also our call to make sacrifices that may, to some degree consume us, so as to help others and to live our faith. As we reflect on the rich symbolism of candles, perhaps we can make a resolution to be true carriers of the light of Christ to all whom we meet and to let the light of Christ shine in perhaps any “dark” areas of our lives. Let us also allow the love of God to

burn like a living flame in our hearts...to set our hearts on fire!

The next day, Saturday, 3rd February, we will celebrate the feast day of a fairly obscure saint, Saint Blaise. We know that he became a physician but then left this profession to become a monk. He soon became the bishop of a city called Sebastea in modern-day Armenia. In 316 he was martyred for his faith, being beheaded during the last major persecution of Christians. St. Blaise is perhaps better known for the “blessing of throats” that takes place on his feast day. Why this connection with Saint Blaise? Well, accounts of his life say that while St. Blaise was being taken to the authorities for his trial and then execution, a mother called out to him for help because her son was choking to death. When St. Blaise blessed the boy, the boy recovered and his life was saved.

The prayer used in the blessing of throats makes clear the purpose of the blessing: “through the intercession of St. Blaise, bishop and martyr, may God deliver you from all disease of the throat and every other evil...” In our parish, the **Blessing of Throats** will be celebrated after each of the weekend Masses on the 3rd and 4th February.

The blessing of throats can also remind us of another spiritual matter. We know how important our voices and words are in so many ways. According to researchers, each day we hear or use at least 6,000 words (maybe some use more than others...!). We also know that our voices and words are a great force for good, or for bad. We can all still remember encouraging or hurtful words many years later and such words can shape our lives for good or for ill. That saying that “sticks and stones may break my bones, but your words cannot harm me” is simply not true!

Our feast day of St. Blaise and the blessing of our throat is a timely reminder about how we use our voices and the words come from our mouth. Let us make sure that the voices are used always for the good. After all, the roots of our words *blessing* and *benediction* are from the Latin “bene dicere”, meaning speaking well. In this sense we might pray that as our throats are blessed so too may what comes from our voice may also be blessed and a source of blessing for others!



THE WEEK AHEAD

TUESDAY, January 30

- **Adoration Committee Meeting** - 7:00-8:30 PM at St. Mary's Academy

THURSDAY, February 1

- **Our Lady of Grace Prayer Group** - 6:30 PM - St. Mary's Church
- **Bible Study:** 7:00 p.m. St. Mary's Academy

FRIDAY, February 2 (FIRST FRIDAY)

- **All day Eucharistic Adoration.** *Please consider spending an hour before the Blessed Sacrament praying for our Church, our community, and your personal needs.*
- **THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD**
Blessing of Candles



This Feast commemorates the moment, forty days after the birth of Jesus, when Mary and Joseph presented Him at the Temple in Jerusalem. During the time of His presentation, Jesus was acknowledged as the light of the world.

SATURDAY, February 3

FEAST OF SAINT BLAISE



Blessing of Throats

On this feast day we have a prayer for healing called "The Blessing of Throats." In our parish, the **Blessing of Throats** will be celebrated after each of the weekend Masses on the 3rd and 4th of February.

READINGS AND HYMNS (HUDSON)

Reading: p. 89 Opening Hymn: # 502 Closing: # 497

MASSES FOR THIS WEEK

MONDAY: Weekday (January 29)

7:15 AM Thomas C. Quigley & MaryLou Bujanow - Family
Donna Lynn Scalera - Dick & Frieda Van Deusen

TUESDAY: Weekday (January 30)

7:15 AM Alicia Fernandez - Donna & Jake Hoffman
Paul Donahue - Janice Clow & Family

WEDNESDAY: St. John Bosco, Priest (January 31)

7:15 AM Myles Dolan - David Dolan
Robert Antonelli - Mike & Kathy Nabozny

THURSDAY: Weekday (February 1)

7:15 AM William J. Whalen - Christopher & Michelle Paul
Paul Donahue - Jill Wishon & Jim Sterling

FRIDAY: Presentation of the Lord (February 2)

7:15 AM Bess, Gordon & John Edgley - Marlene Edgley
Wife & deceased of Drabick Family - John Drabick

9:00 AM For World Peace
(G'TWN)

FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

SATURDAY VIGIL MASS: (February 3)

4:00 PM Dolores E. Housman - George Malchow
(HUD) Jake & Helen Halloran (Wedding Anniv.) - Family
Maureen Daly - Jen Daly & Family

5:30 PM Living & Deceased of the Parish
(G'TWN)

SUNDAY MORNING MASS: (February 4)

9:00 AM Myles Dolan - Lynn & Edward Pawluk
(HUD) Joanne, Peg & Lou Fontaine &

Sister Margaret Cronkhite - Family

William J. Whalen - Rita & Harry
Koepfel

Readings for the Week of January 28

Sunday: Dt 18:15-20/Ps 95:1-2, 6-7, 7-9, [8]/1 Cor 7:32-35
/Mk 1:21-28

Monday: 2 Sm 15:13-14, 30; 16:5-13/Ps 3:2-3, 4-5, 6-7 [8a]
/Mk 5:1-20

Tuesday: 2 Sm 18:9-10, 14b, 24-25a, 30--19:3/Ps
86:1-2, 3-4, 5-6 [1a]/Mk 5:21-43

Wednesday: 2 Sm 24:2, 9-17/Ps 32:1-2, 5, 6, 7 [cf. 5c]/Mk 6:1-6

Thursday: 1 Kgs 2:1-4, 10-12/1 Chr 29:10, 11ab,
11d-12a, 12bcd [12b]/Mk
6:7-13

Friday: Mal 3:1-4/Ps 24:7, 8, 9, 10 [10b]/Heb
2:14-18
/Lk 2:22-40 or 2:22-32

Saturday: 1 Kgs 3:4-13/Ps 119:9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14
[12b]
/Mk 6:30-34

Next Sunday: Jb 7:1-4, 6-7/Ps 147:1-2, 3-4, 5-6 [cf. 3a]

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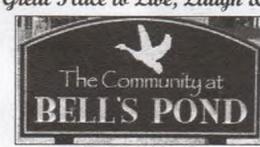
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