

3RD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



Mass Intentions

Saturday, January 22

5:30pm Branden DeLuca
Requested by family

Sunday, January 23

8:00am Brian Russell
Requested by family

10:00am Walter Noone
Req. by Michael & Elizabeth D'Attilio

12:00pm Edward Lombardi
Requested by wife

Monday, January 24

7:00am Mass of Thanksgiving
Requested by Terri McCrorie

Tuesday, January 25

7:00am Timothy E. McNulty
Requested by Sr. Susan Duszynski

Wednesday, January 26

7:00am Vivian Palazzo
Requested by Ellen Eldridge

Thursday, January 27

7:00am Celeste & William Krul
Req. by family

Friday, January 28

7:00am Matilda & Dominic Coppelino
Requested by family

7:00pm St. Thomas Aquinas Memorial

Saturday, January 29

5:30pm Ed Kedzierski
Requested by Jean McGair

Sunday, January 30

8:00am Claire E. Pompei
Requested by family

10:00am Kerry F. Brusini
Requested by Deborah A. Atkinson

12:00pm Timothy E. McNulty
Requested by his brothers & sister



St. Romuald Chapel Mass Intentions

Sunday, January 23

10:00am Mary Marchand
Requested by Gerri & Al Marsocci

Sunday, January 30

10:00am Marcelle M. Ayre
Requested by Ron Ayre



For Your Information

PARISH SUPPORT

Parish Support for January 16th was Budget—\$7,509; Catholic University of America -\$2,327. This weekend's second offering is for Ongoing Maintenance. Next weekend's second offering is for the Church in Latin America. Thank you for your continued generosity!

SANCTUARY LAMP

This week's Sanctuary Lamp at St. Francis Church burns for a Special Intention for Fern, Larry and Pat Ferreira.

ROUTINE

The gospel is always introduced with the priest's "The Lord be with you", to which the people reply "And also with you."

One Sunday the priest noticed that the microphone wasn't working. So when he got into the pulpit he said: "There's something wrong with this mike".

To which the people duly responded: "And also with you."

THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD

'The Light of the World' is the title of a famous picture by Holman Hunt painted in 1854. It portrays Christ, thorn-crowned, and carrying a lantern, knocking at a closed door.

When the artist showed the completed picture to some friends, one pointed out what seemed to be an omission. "You have put no handle on the door," he said to Holman Hunt.

The artist replied, "We must open to the Light. The handle is on the inside."

APPRECIATION

About 200 people turned out for a wonderful Appreciation Night Dinner for parish volunteers at Father Greenan Center on Saturday Night last, January 15th. Awesome! Isn't it great to be together like that?

On behalf of those present, we thank Ginger Costa and her team from Belmont Catering Department for a magnificent dinner. You did an incredible job.

Thanks also to Peg Lavalley, Kathleen and Ed Puchalla, Barbette Cullen and Bob Kelly for getting the center ready. Your eye for artistic beauty enables the hall to become the 'in' place for dinner on a cold Saturday in January.

We appreciate you.

IF ...

If you're fortunate enough to be able to spend the next few months in Florida or some warmer climate, and would like to be in touch with the happenings at your parish, please call the rectory and we'll be happy to send you the parish bulletin while you are away.

DEFINITION OF

Divine Justice: When your kids have kids of their own.

CHILDREN'S LITURGY OF THE WORD... takes place during the 10am Mass at St. Francis Church. There will be NO Children's Liturgy of the Word NEXT Sunday, January 30th.

Abortion and the Sacredness of Life

There's no doubt that to many it's a worn-out cry; a once loud voice that has been anesthetized with the passing years since the Supreme Court struck down the laws of every state in the nation. In the 1973 Roe V's Wade decision, the court prohibited any regulation of abortion in the first three months of pregnancy; allowed only regulations pertaining to the health of the mother in the second; and forbade abortion in the third except when the mother's health was in danger.

In the cases that followed, however, the court insisted on the broadest possible definition of health, - economic, emotional, familial. Abortions should be therapeutic, we were told, but they proceeded to define every abortion as therapeutic. The shocking results of this approach are that abortion is now permitted at any stage of pregnancy, for any reason or for no reason, up to and including the killing of a partially-born baby.

Signals of hope? Sometimes, even in winter, you can see tiny bits of grass poking their way through the cement.

One was that the featured speakers at a recent Right-To-Life Rally was a New York rabbi. To those who insist that this is a Catholic issue, enough said! "The greatest gift God gave us," he proclaimed, "is the gift of life. Take a stand for life." God's call to every human being is to recognize that every human being is unique, special and unrepeatable. And that's true whether I'm Jew or gentile. I can't have any rights (including the right to choice) if I don't have the right to be alive once life has begun.

The issue of the sacredness of life will take various twists and turns in the coming years as the new millennium gathers steam. However, it will never die. As good Christians and hospitable Americans, we have to see to that.

Fr. Nick



THE CONVERSION OF SAINT PAUL

This coming Tuesday, January 25, the Church celebrates the *Feast of the Conversion of Saint Paul*. Saint Paul (formerly "Saul") was a tent-maker by profession, and studied the Jewish faith with one of the most learned rabbis of his time, Gamaliel. He was incredibly well-versed in the Hebrew scriptures, and initially took great offense at the newborn Christian movement. He even participated in the martyrdom of Saint Stephen the deacon. Everything changed when he encountered the Risen Christ on the road to Damascus. "Saul, Saul," Jesus asked, "why are you persecuting me?" Notice that Saul had never met Christ during his earthly life. He only

knew his disciples, and yet Christ asks, "Why are you persecuting me?" Christ identified himself with those followers of his who were being persecuted by Saul! This great feast teaches us that Christ and his Church are ONE! There is no Church without Christ and there is no Christ without the Church! A relationship with Christ must include his Church. This is a truth that Saint Paul's own conversion teaches us; it is a truth that Saint Paul would eventually give his own life to defend. Saint Paul, the Great Apostle to the Gentiles, pray for us!



Religious Education

Grades K-6—Classes as below.

Wednesday Classes—Grades 3-6 meet from 4-5pm in Father Greenan Center.

Grades 7 & 8—No Classes this week.

Confirmation I & II—NO Classes this week.

Children's Liturgy of the Word—during the 10am Mass.



This Week

Sunday, January 23

8:50-9:50 Gr. 1 & 2 FGC

10:00am Children's Liturgy of the Word

10:50-11:50 Gr 3,4 5 FGC
Gr 6 HBH

6-7:30pm Praise Rehearsal (FGC)

7:00pm AA (HBH)

Monday, January 24

7-8:30pm NO Conf. I & II Class

Tuesday, January 25

6:30-7:30pm RCIA (MCCR)

7:00pm Adult Choir Rehearsal (loft)

Wednesday, January 26

4-5:00pm Class Gr. 3-6 (FGC)

7-8:15pm NO Class Gr. 7 & 8



O COME, LET US ADORE HIM

Join us next Sunday, January 30th, for a Eucharistic Holy Hour in the Church at 7:00PM. Our talented group of parish teens, PRAISE, will lead the musical component of the Holy Hour, which is a perfect blend of up-beat yet reverent songs of praise. We will also hear God's Holy Word proclaimed and broken open! Stop everything and rest in His presence! If you've never been to a PRAISE Holy Hour, NOW is the time! Bring a friend or two or three...



THE FEAST OF THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD
Please join us on **Wednesday, February 2, at 7:00PM** in Saint Francis Church for the Celebration of Mass as we commemorate the Feast of the Presentation. This feast recalls Jesus' presentation in the temple by his parents, when he was recognized by Simeon as the "light of the nations." This feast of light calls for the blessing of candles and a procession, which is why this feast is also known as "Candlemas." Blessed candles will be available after Mass, and **you are welcome to bring candles from home that you would like to have blessed at the beginning of the service.** The tradition of using blessed candles for prayer in the home is an ancient one that reminds us that Christ should be the light of our homes, our lives, and our world. The procession will begin in Helen Bouchard Hall (the lower church) at 7:00PM. Please join us and bring a friend or two!



SPECIAL MASS AND PRESENTATION THIS FRIDAY! Please join us this coming **Friday, January 28**, as we celebrate the Feast of Saint Thomas Aquinas with a special **Mass at 7:00PM** in Saint Francis Church, followed by a presentation in Helen Bouchard Hall entitled **"Thomistic Themes: The Enduring Legacy of Saint Thomas."**

Please consider joining us in invoking the intercession of this powerful saint, and learning more about his life and important contribution to the Church.

A ONCE POWERFUL FRAME

The day they had dreaded for many months finally came. Son and daughter could no longer give their father the proper care and nursing support. Both had noticed the deterioration soon after their mother had died - the mix up in names, the forgetfulness, the sometimes blank stare.

Now he came out of his house, for what would be for the final time. His once powerful frame was supported by his son who fought back tears as he helped him to the waiting car. His eyes seemed to focus in recognition of the gathered neighbors, but only momentarily. Soon the car moved off on its journey to the nursing home which had the facilities for coping with Alzheimer's Disease.

Weeks later - coming toward Christmas - he was in the dining room and instinctively reached out to the accordion player, who was there for the Christmas sing-along. It was like he recognized a few chords and a hint of a smile returned. That simple incident provided a great deal of comfort for son and daughter. They remembered him play the accordion at weddings long before the acoustic groups took over. And they remembered too the sing-alongs in their home, so much a part of their growing up.

The grandchildren were good to him. They took turns and visited him regularly. Even though he looked at them without any signals of recognition, they often took him by the hand for a walk in the garden. Maybe, thought the son as he watched the slow procession, maybe life is a journey from childhood to childhood, and in the case of his father at least, a journey from innocence to innocence regained.

As they saw the old man with the grandchildren, son and daughter remembered the days when they went to the mountains with their dad. He always took them by the hand when the path became uncertain. Now in his final days, through the kindness of those who nursed him, God, they thought, was now taking the hand of their stumbling father and guiding him to heaven where memories would be restored again.



1st Eucharist Preparation Mass The 10am Mass at St. Francis next Sunday will be the second of two preparation Masses for children receiving 1st Communion in May. It is a wonderful liturgy celebrating "Listening to God's Word." The homily, however, will be directed to the children and they will serve as readers and gift bearers. It is mentioned here to inform and invite you so that you may attend or not as you choose.