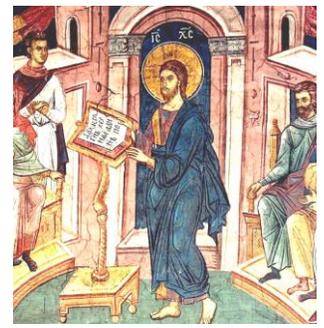


# Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

## January 27, 2019



### MASS SCHEDULE AND INTENTIONS: JANUARY 26 TO FEBRUARY 3

<b>Saturday</b>	<b>Jan. 26</b>	<b>Third Sunday in Ordinary Time</b>
4:30 pm	Maria Bastone	Rosemary & Joe Furino
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Jan. 27</b>	
9:00 am	Our Parishioners	
11:00am	Francis Mendonza	The family
<b>Monday</b>	<b>Jan. 28</b>	
8:30 am	Poletta Di Sciullio (Maiocco)	Sabrina Drudi
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Jan. 29</b>	
8:30	Poletta Di Sciullio (Maiocco)	Carol & Leonard Drudi
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Jan. 30</b>	
8:30 am	In thanksgiving to St. Thomas à Becket	
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Jan. 31</b>	
8:30 am	Linda Harper	Donna Waugh
<b>Friday</b>	<b>Feb. 1</b>	
8:30 am	Maryanne Guido	Maria Caputo
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>Feb. 2</b>	<b>Feast of the Presentation of the Lord</b>
11:00 am	Marcelle Cousineau	St. Thomas à Becket Parish
		<b>Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time</b>
4:30 pm	Iris Fernandes	Atwell D'Souza & family
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Feb. 3</b>	
9:00 am	Our Parishioners	
11:00 am	Silvano Zilli	The Gafoor Family

#### SANCTUARY LAMP (Week)

January 27: Francis Mendonza, requested by his wife & family.

February 3: Kathleen Rush-Heald (L) requested by the Rosary Group

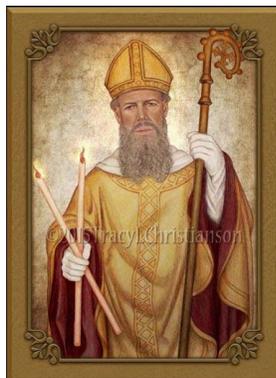
**LORD GRANT MERCY AND LASTING PEACE** to those who have died recently and strength and comfort to those who mourn them: Marcelle Cousineau, mother of Warden Norm Cousineau, mother-in-law of Sandra Dunn.

**TUESDAY MORNING MEET AND GREET** resumes February 5 after morning Mass. All welcome.

**FAITH FIRST:** Confirmation Gathering #4 Tuesday, Feb 5

Level 5 (SP5, SP6) Gathering #2 Tuesday, Feb 7

#### FEAST OF ST. BLAISE: Blessing of throats



This popular feast falls on February 3 which, being a Sunday this year, is not celebrated. As usual on his feast, however, our priests will carry out the blessing of throats after the Saturday and Sunday Masses this weekend, by touching their throats with two crossed candles while invoking the prayer of the saint and imparting God's blessing in these words: "Through the intercession of St. Blaise, bishop and martyr, may God deliver you from every disease of the throat and from every other illness, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit."

## FEAST OF THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD

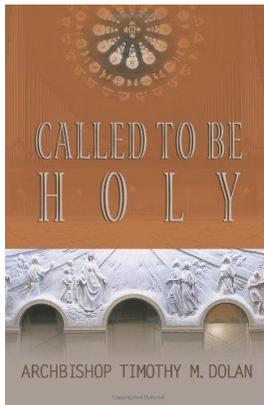


At the end of the fourth century, a woman named Etheria made a pilgrimage to Jerusalem. Her journal, discovered in 1887, gives an unprecedented glimpse of liturgical life there. Among the celebrations she describes is the Epiphany (January 6), the observance of Christ's birth, and the gala procession in honour of his Presentation in the Temple 40 days later February 15. (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 for her "purification." Contact with anyone who had brushed against the 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 St. Simeon, the old man who burst into a song of joy which the Church still sings at day's end: "Lord, now let your servant go in peace; your word has been fulfilled: my own eyes have seen the salvation which you have prepared in the sight of every people: a light to reveal you to the nations and the glory of your people Israel. Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen Cantic of Simeon" (Lk 2:29-32)

### A MASS FOR THE FEAST OF THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD

with blessing of the candles and procession will be celebrated on Saturday, February 2, at 11:00 am.

**WORTHWHILE READING** *Called to be Holy*, by Cardinal Timothy Dolan.



In this book, Cardinal Dolan (Archbishop of New York) presents short chapters on necessities for a healthy spiritual life. He reflects on humility, on patience, on Penance and many others. Each chapter is peppered with illustrations from his own ministry, from the lives of the saints and from the experiences of seminarians he encountered when he was rector of the North American College in Rome. Many also include beautiful prayers from saints and other figures in the Church. This is certainly a nourishing read, a good aid to evaluate your spiritual life and make sure it's on track, or a good incentive and guide to help you get back on track.

**CONTRIBUTIONS FOR JAN 19/20** will be published next week.

Next special collection: February 10 – Religious Education

**FOR BETTER & FOREVER! AN INVITATION TO: “THE MARRIAGE PREPARATION COURSE”** All couples considering marriage (whether currently engaged or not) are encouraged to learn how to lay the foundation for a relationship that will last a lifetime. The Marriage Preparation Course is ideal for couples who wish to discover more about themselves, and married life, before the day they say “I do!” The key to having a great marriage is not finding the right spouse, but being the right spouse! You are invited to join us over 5 weekly sessions, in a relaxed home setting in Kirkland, on Tuesday evenings at 7:15 pm, starting Jan 29, ending Feb 26. There is absolutely no group work and all discussions remain completely private between you and your partner. The fee is \$50.00 per couple. To register, or for more information, please contact Nathalie or John Bondyra at 514-695-7896, or at kahndyra@sympatico.ca.

### **HOW TO MAKE THE SIGN OF THE CROSS BEFORE THE GOSPEL AT MASS**

For Roman Catholics, there is a quick gesture that can often go unnoticed before the recitation of the Gospel reading at Mass. It is a brief tracing of the cross that is not the typical gesture usually performed and contains much symbolism. The gesture is a direct imitation of what the deacon (or priest when a deacon is not present) is instructed to do before he recites the words of the holy Gospel. The Roman Missal states, "Then, with the thumb of his right hand, he makes the sign of the cross first on the book at the beginning of the Gospel to be read, and then on himself on the forehead, mouth, and breast."

Prior to that, if a deacon is going to proclaim the Gospel, the priest will give him a blessing where he recites the following prayer.

May the Lord be in your heart and on your lips, that you may proclaim his Gospel worthily and well, in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

In a similar way, when the priest is the one to proclaim the Gospel, he prays these words quietly: “Cleanse my heart and my lips, almighty God, that I may worthily proclaim your holy Gospel.”

The laity and all others attending Mass, are invited to make a similar prayer and gesture before the Gospel is read. They are encouraged to say interiorly a brief prayer that prepares them to receive the Word of God: “May the Word of the Lord be on my mind, on my lips, and in my heart.”

It is a beautiful action, one with deep biblical roots. For example, God explains to the people of Israel to recite a particular phrase (“Hear, O Israel ...”) on a daily basis, but also to put that phrase “as a pendant on your forehead” (Deuteronomy 6:8). Many Jews took that literally and placed a small scroll on their forehead. It was a visible reminder to keep the Word of God always on their mind.

Secondly, the prayer is reminiscent of how the prophet Isaiah received a vision where an angel purified his lips with a burning coal (see Isaiah 6).

This connection is preserved in the Extraordinary Form of the Mass, where the priest recites the following prayer before the Gospel: “Cleanse my heart and my lips, O Almighty God, Who cleansed the lips of the Prophet Isaiah with a burning coal. In Your gracious mercy deign so to purify me that I may worthily proclaim Your holy Gospel.”

Last of all, the prayer recalls the words of the Letter to the Hebrews, where the author writes, “the word of God is living and effective, sharper than any two-edged sword, penetrating even between soul and spirit, joints and marrow, and able to discern reflections and thoughts of the heart” (Hebrews 4:12).

Thus, when we make such a gesture at Mass, it is truly a profound prayer, opening ourselves up to the words of Jesus Christ. Every time we listen to the Gospel Jesus is knocking at the door of our heart, waiting to get in. We just have to open the door.

*~ by Philip Kosloski*