

“  
BEHOLD,  
THIS CHILD  
IS DESTINED  
FOR THE FALL  
AND RISE OF  
MANY IN ISRAEL.  
”

LUKE 2:34





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## **THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD FEBRUARY 2, 2020**

### **SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 1**

*Mass of Anticipation for The Presentation*

4:00PM Jake Downey—Memorial

### **SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 2**

*The Presentation of the Lord*

7:30 AM Evelyn & Michael Simon—Memorial

9:00 AM Diane Manning—Memorial

10:30AM Cheryl Zola—2nd Anniversary

5:00PM The Parishioners of Our Lady of Mercy Church

### **MONDAY, FEBRUARY 3**

*Weekday; St. Blaise, Bishop & Martyr; St. Ansgar, Bishop*

7:30AM Nora Weaver—Memorial

### **TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 4**

*Weekday*

7:30AM Marie McGlynn—Memorial

### **WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 5**

*St. Agatha, Virgin & Martyr*

7:30AM Special Intention

### **THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 6**

*St. Paul Miki & Companions, Martyrs*

7:30AM Edna Hart—22nd Anniversary

### **FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 7**

*Weekday*

7:30AM Deborah Sullivan & Bobby Anderson—Memorial

9:00AM Brenda Dudley—Memorial

### **SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 8**

*Weekday; St. Jerome Emiliani; St. Josephine Bakhita, Virgin; BVM*

8:30AM Joseph R. Abbatematteo—Memorial

*Mass of Anticipation for the 5th Sunday in Ordinary Time*

4:00PM Vincent A. Bruzzese—1st Anniversary

### **SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 9**

*The Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time*

7:30 AM Dolores K. Vespia—5th Anniversary

9:00 AM Thomas J. Brescia—Birthday Remembrance

10:30AM Bruce Hart—6th Anniversary

5:00PM The Parishioners of Our Lady of Mercy Church







Dear Parishioners:

Last weekend we heard from our outstanding OLM Students! What a great job they did telling us why they love their school! The OLM School Open House saw many prospective students visit and see firsthand all the great things going on there. We thank you for your support of OLM School, and as Catholic Schools Week end, I ask you to please continue praying for our young saints and scholars!

This weekend we celebrate the great Feast of the Presentation of the Lord as this year it falls on a Sunday. The feast of Jesus' presentation in the temple forty days after his birth, always celebrated on February 2nd, has a long history in the Eastern and Western Church.

The Mosaic law prescribed that every firstborn male in Israel had to be consecrated to God forty days after birth and redeemed with a sum deposited in the Temple treasury. This was in remembrance of the firstborn sons being preserved from death on the night of the first Passover during the exodus from Egypt.

St. Joseph and our Lady entered the temple in Jerusalem, unnoticed among the crowd. The "desired of all nations" came to the house of his Father in his Mother's arms. But as we are reminded in the liturgy of this feast, Jesus was unlike any other child for he is: "*A light of revelation to the Gentiles, and glory for your people Israel.*"

In commemorating the arrival and manifestation of the divine light to the world, the Church each year blesses candles as they are a symbol of Jesus'

eternal presence and the light of faith received in the sacrament of Baptism. The procession with lighted candles recalls for us the Christian life as a pathway always illuminated by the light of Christ.

This weekend we also anticipate the Feast of St. Blaise on February 3rd. He was a bishop and martyr of the early Church and became popular for centuries as many cures were attributed to his intercession. This began with the tradition of his saving a child who was choking to death on a fish bone caught in his throat. St. Blaise is one of the Fourteen Holy Helpers and is invoked for all throat afflictions.

The blessing of throats takes place at the end of all Masses this weekend. Using two blessed candles placed on the throat the priest offers a blessing with a prayer as he calls forth the powerful intercession of St. Blaise to protect us from all ailments of throat and all other afflictions and ailments!

It is rather timely in this season of colds and flu! This is especially true this year as the flu is so widespread. So turn to St. Blaise for his powerful intercession to protect us from afflictions of the throat and every other ailment especially the flu.

Also out of an abundance of caution and with the strong recommendation of medical doctors, I have suspended the communal "Sign of Peace" at all Masses at OLM. This is to continue until the cold and flu season has been abated. This precaution helps avoid the hand to hand contact that often spreads germs that cause flu and colds. If you are suffering from

the flu, please stay at home and take care of yourself. We promise to pray for you!

We hope and pray that the flu subsides in our nation. We also must pray that the deadly outbreak of the Corona Flu Virus in China and now spreading across the globe may also subside. Let us pray for those suffering as a result of this deadly flu especially the millions who are now quarantined in China. May St. Blaise, intercede for them all!

Fr. Barrow and his band of merry pilgrims report that they had a truly joyful and fruitful journey in the Holy Land. Their trip was safe and peaceful with many tremendous opportunities for prayer, devotion and worship at the holiest sites of Christianity. They worshiped and prayed were Jesus Christ did himself. We are happy they are home safe. Welcome back!

Next weekend our OLM School 8th Graders head north to Quebec for the annual OLM graduation trip. Fr. Barrow, the world traveler, is going along too! Pray for their safe travel, as it is always very cold and snowy this time of year in Quebec. It is a very educational and fun trip for all! *Bon Voyage!*

It's cold and flu season so please wash your hands and say your prayers because Jesus and germs are everywhere! Be well. Do Good! God Bless. Enjoy the Superbowl!



**How Realistic is the Two Popes?**

Netflix recently released a movie on its streaming service called The Two Popes. The film depicts the final days of Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI. The story centers on a meeting between then Cardinal Bergoglio of Argentina (the future Pope Francis) and then Pope Benedict. This encounter between them occurs because Cardinal Bergoglio wishes to retire. Benedict calls the meeting to refuse this request. The meeting takes place at Castel Gandolfo, the pope's summer residence. During the meeting we discover the personalities of each papa.

Several flash back scenes detail Bergoglio's life in Argentina as the head of the Jesuit seminary. Throughout the film I was extremely impressed by the accuracy of the locations, vesture, and sequence of actual events. The flashbacks to Pope Francis's life were particularly enlightening. Yet, people are often surprised to discover that much of the movie is fictional. In fact, while I enjoyed the movie for its entertainment value and "what-if" scenario, the film gets a couple facts incorrect.

First, the meeting between Benedict and Bergoglio at Castel Gandolfo (and the Sistine Chapel) never took place. Bergoglio never wanted to retire as Archbishop, nor did Benedict use this meeting to prepare Bergoglio to become pope. Second, the film presents a caricature of Benedict as a manipulative, grumpy and legalistic. In one scene Benedict claims he cannot hear the voice of God anymore.

Many theories abound about the reason for Benedict's abdication, but they remain simple conjecture. It seems an unlikely reason for retirement given he is one of the most prolific and profound theological writers in recent memory. The effects of the Vati-leaks scandal, old age and physical illness seem more likely causes for Benedict's decision to abdicate.

Finally, the film shows in one of the flashbacks that Bergoglio was removed the office of the Jesuit provincial and sent away to a far off province. The film suggests that this is punishment for Bergoglio's apparent cooperation with the Argentinian dictatorship. This did not happen. After completing his term as provincial, he became rector of the Faculty of Theology at the University of San Miguel. Likewise, Benedict's confession in the film to Bergoglio concerning Fr. Marcial Maciel, tends to suggest that Benedict ignored Maciel's abuse as head of the Legionaries. Yet it was Benedict who removed Maciel from sacramental service and sent him to perpetual penance.

At the end of the day The Two Popes is not a documentary. Still it is an enjoyable, albeit long film to watch.

*Weekly Collection*

January 26, 2020

Weekly.....	\$9,752.00
EFT.....	\$2,821.00
	<b>Total=\$12,573.00</b>
Outreach.....	\$267.00
Saints and Scholars .....	\$10,577.00

If you have been away on vacation or visiting another parish, we kindly ask you to please make up your missed budget envelopes. We depend solely upon your weekly support to meet our weekly parish expenses.

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May God Bless Your Generosity!**


**Please remember Our Lady of Mercy Church in your will or estate.**



**Second Collections**  
**This Week: Building & Grounds**



**Our Faith, Our Future Goal=\$2,000,000**  
**Pledged To Date=\$1,552,675**  
**Total Number of OLM Parishioners=2,120**  
**Total Number of Pledges=349**  
**Average Pledge=\$4,450**



**Due to the spread of the influenza/flu virus and upon the strong recommendation of Medical experts, the Sign of Peace is to be suspended at all Masses at Our Lady of Mercy Church until further notice. Please pray for the health and well-being of all parishioners during this time.**





# Religious Education NEWS

• **February 2:** All RE CLASS meet at regular times this weekend and next weekend!



# Outreach Update

• **OLM Food Pantry** is always in need of **non-perishable** food items especially during the winter season. Please drop your donations in the Food Box located in the vestibule of Church. Thank you for your support.

• **OLM Bereavement Group meets Thursday, February 6, 2020 at 4:00PM** in Mercy House. All those experiencing grief or loss are most welcome to join us for prayer and support.

• **For more information about OLM Outreach**, please contact OLM Outreach Director, Doug Green at 884-4410 or via email at outreach@olmparish.org

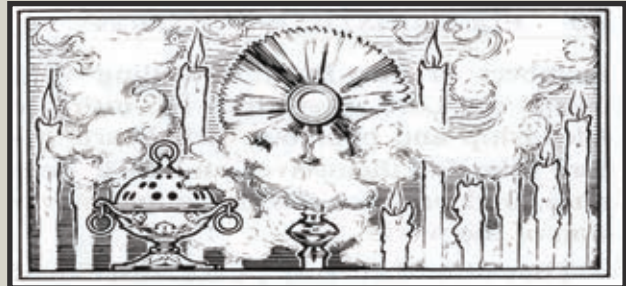


## Events for the Upcoming Week

• **Friday, February 7:** First Friday Mass at 9:00am; 8th Graders depart for Graduation Trip to Quebec and return on Monday, February 10. Safe Travels!

[www.olmschool.org](http://www.olmschool.org)

*Striving to be Saints & Scholars!*



## **FIRST FRIDAY ADORATION**

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 7TH

Exposition following 9:00am School Mass  
Adoration All Day with Benediction at 6pm

*Adorers are needed, please sign up on sheet in the vestibule of the Church. Thank you!*



We offer our prayerful condolences to the families of **Herbert J. Gray III** and **Christopher Connelly** whose Masses of Christian Burial were celebrated at OLM last week.





## Presentation of the Lord



**T**he feast of the Presentation of the Lord, the commemoration of Mary and Joseph's presenting the infant Jesus at the Temple in Jerusalem, celebrates Christ as our true light who has come into the world.

For as the holy man, Simeon, said on that day,

... [M]y eyes have witnessed your saving deed

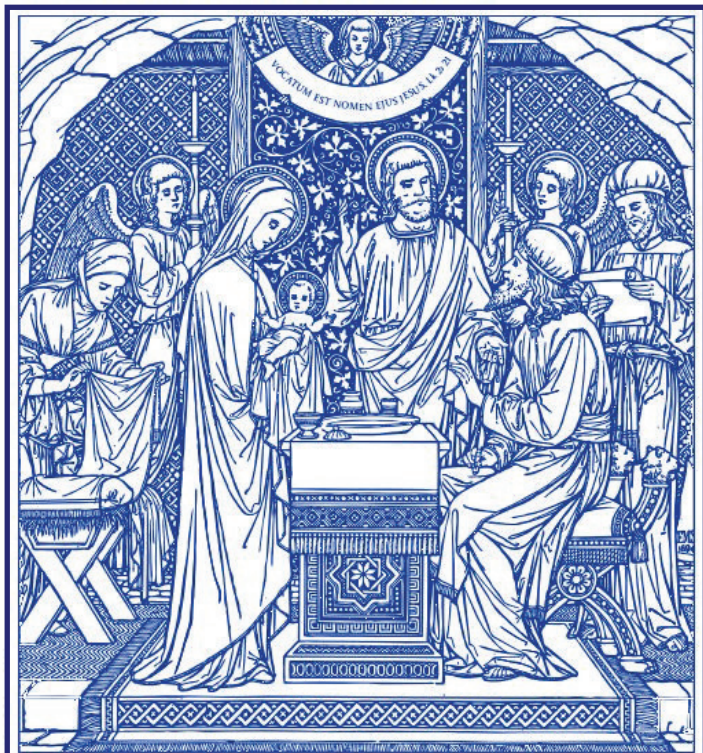
displayed for all the peoples to see:

A revealing light to all the Gentiles,

the glory of your people Israel.

The blessing of candles, traditionally done on this day, is a fitting symbol for such a celebration and has given the feast its popular name of Candlemas Day.

This feast used to be known as the Purification of Mary, which commemorated a Jewish rite performed for women forty days after childbirth.



### OLM Young Families Meeting

Thursday, February 6, 2020

5:30—7:00PM, OLM School Gym

All young families are most welcome to come to our first meeting of the OLM Young Families group. OLM Young Families is a group dedicated to providing a place for families to come together, learn about important topics of the faith and family life, and a time to come together to support one another. *Pizza served for dinner!*

*Babysitting available!*

For more information or just to learn more about our group contact Coordinator Kate Jelinek at: [Kate\\_Jelinek@hotmail.com](mailto:Kate_Jelinek@hotmail.com)

SAINT BLAISE

*Pray For Us*



THE MEN OF  
ST. JOSEPH

Monthly Meeting

Saturday, February 8, 2010 at 7:00AM

OLM Rectory Meeting Room

All Adult Catholic Men are invited to join us for our meeting as we discuss our faith. For more information about this group, contact Fr. Barrow at [associate@olmparish.org](mailto:associate@olmparish.org) or 884-4968



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