



THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD



They were overjoyed at seeing the star, and on entering the house they saw the child with Mary his mother. They prostrated themselves and did him homage. Then they opened their treasures and offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. - Mt 2:10-11

MASS:

Wednesday 9:00 a.m.

Sunday 10:00 a.m.

Pop's Idea of Christmas

Last week, I mentioned here that my folks' celebration of Christmas lasted longer than anyone else's we knew. My Mom accepted this reluctantly, but it was clearly Dad's idea. The man loved Christmas like few people I have ever met. He insisted on dragging the season out — or perpetuating the joy of its celebration, depending on your viewpoint — like no other.

How this worked in our old 1920s home in the 1960s takes a word of explanation. The house had a large all-season sunroom out back that opened behind huge wooden doors. When the room was closed off, and the steam radiator turned way down, a live Christmas tree could survive in there for weeks.

Which was precisely what Pop had in mind. His idea of the full Christmas experience began months earlier with an extensive study of the Sears Christmas catalog, marking potential gifts for each family member. A trek to a local lot to find the perfect 10' tree took up an entire frigid Saturday afternoon in December, and then my brother and I would wrestle it into our car trunk, up the front stairs, through the house and into the sunroom, where it was set up with great fanfare under the 11' ceilings. Then the doors were closed and the heat turned down.

We had the usual decorating and an all-day celebration of Christmas, but then Pop insisted on keeping the fully decorated tree alive until at least Feb. 1 and usually two weeks longer. When the tree was lit up nightly after supper, you could catch our neighbors on both sides peering through their kitchen windows to debate how long this madness might persist.

Through January, my folks and my brother and I would open up those doors, sit on chairs in front of the tree, listen to holiday music, enjoy a snack, play a board game, and listen to stories about Christmas in the early 1900s when Pop was a small child. Each year he'd put out his cast iron train set from 1910 as a special memento, his eyes shiny from the memory of when it was all red and new.

Sometimes, my brother and I would lie on our backs and look up through the brightly lit branches to marvel at those huge old fragile glass ornaments from Christmases long past. The aftermath of all this seasonal exertion was a few weeks of pine needles in your socks and throughout the house. A small price to pay, thanks be to God, for joys that have lasted a lifetime in memory.

— Lou Jacquet

Scheduling Masses for 2022

As we begin a new calendar year, it is time once again to be lining up Masses of Remembrance for our deceased loved ones.

We remind parishioners of the necessary limitation of Masses per family this year. We have only a very limited number of Masses available. In years past we had 52 more weekend (Saturday) Masses, and many more with four weekday Masses until the death of Fr. Loveless.

We also have fewer Masses available than last year because some of the requests for 2021 had to be scheduled into the early months of 2022. Masses for the newly deceased are also constantly added to the schedule.

Therefore, families can only request one Sunday Mass and one weekday Mass until the calendar is filled. To request a Mass, call the rectory Monday through Thursday 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. at 330-792-3875.

Thank you for your cooperation in this important pastoral and liturgical matter, as we seek to honor and remember our beloved deceased within the confines of our reduced Mass schedule.



Sunday, January 2

10:00 a.m. Jean McGonnell

by Lou & Geri Jacquet

Wednesday, January 5

9:00 a.m. Sandy Mihalik by John Vranches

Sunday, January 9

10:00 a.m. Ralph Ruggiero by Angela Ezzo

Please Pray For Our Sick

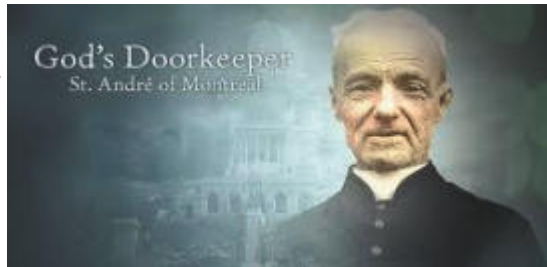
Bob & Lois Sletts, Fred Merlo, Catherine McCammon, Frank Modarelli, Jean Dascenzo, Christine Kalhoun, Lynn Osting, Blanche Ruggiero

Pray for the Faithful Departed, May They Rest from Their Labors

The Epiphany of the Lord

St. Andre Bessette: Doorkeeper, Counselor, Healer

The chances are few of us will be heading to blustery Montreal anytime soon. But if we were headed to Quebec, we would see a huge basilica atop of Mount Royal there which anyone would assume was built by the donations and efforts of millionaires.



experience physical healings after praying with him." Despite his increasing notoriety, Brother Andre "remained humble because he knew the real source of these miraculous cures was St. Joseph's intercession."

In point of fact, the Oratory of St. Joseph the Worker stands there because of a Holy Cross religious brother — with a great devotion to St. Joseph from his youth — who lived and died a pauper, but left his mark on untold thousands he encountered in a lifetime of miraculously healing and serving the poor.

St. Andre Bessette (1845-1937), born Alfred, was the eighth of 12 children; he was orphaned at age 12. Though he had little formal education, his pastor sent him to the Congregation of the Holy Cross with the words, "I send you a saint." The order rejected him outright because of his poor health. He was finally accepted into the order at age 25 in 1870, taking the name Andre. He was assigned as the doorkeeper at Notre Dame College, the order's preparatory school for boys, where the illiterate Brother was allowed to answer the door, wake up the boys daily, and deliver mail.

The order's website explains that Brother Andre would "meet visitors at the door and attend to their needs." Soon, "many people began to

Wanting to increase devotion to St. Joseph, Brother Andre founded a small shrine across from the monastery, charging five cents a haircut to build the first modest building for \$200 that opened in 1904. By 1909 he had been assigned full-time to serve as caretaker of the newly-named St. Joseph Oratory, which was already attracting large numbers of pilgrims.

Soon plans were made to build a large basilica, and Brother Andre became involved in full-time ministry to the sick, "receiving long lines of visitors" that led to "thousands of miraculous healings attributed to his intercession." At the height, he needed four secretaries to handle the 80,000 letters a year he received there.

It took 50 years to complete the basilica; since 2019 it has been undergoing a \$75 million overhaul and update funded by the government of Montreal. Brother Andre was canonized in 2010 by Pope Benedict XVI. Despite a lifetime of poor health with stomach problems, he lived to be 91. St. Andre Bessette, pray for us.

— Lou Jacquet

A New Year's Reflection: On the Value of Suffering

[In this space, week to week, we reflect on the Scripture readings for the day. Today, however, we begin the new year with a reflection, this Sunday only, on the value of suffering. This reflection from a website called Tera's Online Christian Journey is used with permission.]

There isn't one ounce of suffering that doesn't have a holy purpose. Not one. Use this truth now to get through your current suffering, or tuck it away for the next time that you are suffering.

Although knowing this doesn't always aid or abolish the pain, the angst, the grief, or the depression or any other hard emotion that is usually birthed from our suffering...it does give it value and worth.

If you are not accepting this, go ahead and ask Mary. You could also ask Joseph, Elizabeth, or her honey-loving, bug-eating offspring John (the Baptist). Or you could ask the once-bleeding

woman who dragged herself to the feet of Jesus to touch His garment. These and other biblical characters who found themselves in great suffering with many sleepless nights would tell you that, for them, suffering was part of God's plan.

Ask Paul what it was like to be imprisoned for so long, and ask him what poured from his pen as a result of it. Or you can read it in the Acts of the Apostles and his Letters. I could go on, or you could add plenty from your own story or the story of someone you love about changes that occur after suffering. There isn't one ounce of suffering that doesn't have a holy purpose.

Our suffering matters. It counts. It is combined with His suffering and death and does something in the Kingdom of God. Offer your suffering to God for the building up of His Body and Kingdom. Hold onto the Beloved and know that you are being held. Amen.

Dining Hall Volunteers Needed

The Mahoning County St. Vincent de Paul Society's 2022 Dining Hall serving schedule has been released and St. Brendan's is scheduled for three weeks in the coming year.

The first is Jan. 31-Feb. 4. The last time we were scheduled, only one couple, Jerry and Amy Kernan, came forward to serve. We need to be sure that we are represented this time around by more volunteers. Sign-up sheets will be posted in the side and back vestibules.

Prayer to St. Andre Bessette

Lord our God, friend of the lowly,
who gave your servant, St. Andre Bessette,
a great devotion to St. Joseph,
and a commitment to the poor and afflicted,
help us through his intercession
to follow his example of prayer and love
and so come to share with him in your glory.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity
of the Holy Spirit,
God, forever and ever. Amen.

Your Sacrificial Offering

Amount needed monthly to meet expenses

For December 2021 **\$29,440.00**

Week of December 19

Sunday Collection	\$3,040.00
Increased Operating Exp.	\$310.00
Major Repairs	\$82.00
Rentals	\$1,050.00
Maint. Support	\$1,110.00
Total	\$5,592.00

23 week total \$18,989.42 toward the goal of \$29,440.00

\$10,450.58 short

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Mass 12/19 10 a.m. 101



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Administrator

Father Steven Agostino Ext. 11
Email: sagostino@youngstowndiocese.org

Parish Secretary

Liz Shina Ext.10
Email: office@stbrendanyo.org

Music Director

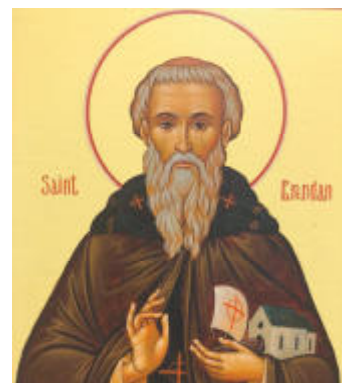
Geri Jacquet

Assistant Music Director

Allyson Reed

MASS Sunday 10:00 am

Wednesday 9:00 am



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