



## 2<sup>ND</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



There was a wedding at Cana in Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. Jesus and his disciples were also invited to the wedding. When the wine ran short, the mother of Jesus said to him, "They have no wine." - Jn 2:1-3

**MASS:**

**Wednesday 9:00 a.m.**

**Sunday 10:00 a.m.**

## *These Days Without Sunshine*

December 21 has always been a difficult day for some of us. It's the official first day of Winter, which in Ohio usually means four months of tough weather dead ahead. But the reason it looms large in my thoughts is that it's also the shortest day of the year.

That's no doubt why I was sitting in my easy chair by the picture window late that afternoon, catching every last ray of sunshine I could savor before the sun set some four or five hours too early for those of us who love long, sunny summer evenings.

For a few moments, I found myself wishing I were back in Spain, remembering the evenings in 2003 when Geri and I sat out on plazas in various cities — during our pilgrimage to Fatima — to watch the locals prepare for their 10 p.m. evening meal. Because of Spain's location, the evenings there are lighter much later than here. Entire neighborhoods seemed to be alive on the town squares well after 10 p.m.

Winter has its highlights, especially for those who love outdoor sports. But my hockey-playing days are an ancient memory; I was never a figure skater; and while I enjoyed watching Olympic skiing events, I could never get my legs and arms in sync with my brain while heading downhill at too-fast speeds.

Short winter days can present real problems. I recall hearing that Alaska has 22 hours of darkness each day in the heart of winter. Despite all that scenic beauty, I could never live there. Those winters are so dark and depressing that KNOM, the Catholic radio station in Nome serving the Alaskan outback, devotes several hours each day to taking calls from persons seriously contemplating taking their own lives. Sadly true.

Lack of sunshine has never driven me to such a state, thanks be to God, but there is no question that winters have always been harder to endure for this native Ohioan than any other season. Cold and snow aside, no small part of that is the shorter days and far fewer hours of sunshine. Many of us have to work harder on such cloudy, dark days to remain even relatively upbeat.

It's true: Lack of the sun is a real challenge hereabouts. But come to think of it, lack of the Sun would be so much worse.

— Lou Jacquet

Office hours are Monday– Thursday 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

For more information, please call 330-792-3875

## *SVDP Volunteers Needed Now!*

St. Brendan's Parish is in the process of reorganizing a local chapter ("conference") of the St. Vincent de Paul Society (SVDP) that operated in the parish for many years. A preliminary meeting for that purpose was held Jan. 2 after the Sunday Mass.

While that process unfolds, SVDP representative Joe Vivacqua reminds parishioners that volunteers from our parish are needed to serve meals Jan. 31-Feb. 4 at the SVDP dining hall, now located in the basement of the former SS. Cyril and Methodius Parish in downtown Youngstown. The commitment is for 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m. at the dining hall.

To volunteer for the serving role, call Liz Shina, parish office manager, at 330-792-3875 M-Th, 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

## *Church Overseas Collection Set*

Catholics around the country have always responded to the needs of people everywhere. Next weekend, the Diocese of Youngstown will hold the Church Overseas Combined Collection in order to assist the Church in its ministries throughout the world.

This combined collection supports four major overseas services: Catholic Relief Services (CRS); Holy Father/Peter's Pence; the Church in Central and Eastern Europe; and the Church in Latin America.

Please remember, as we move toward the season of Lent, to support these important programs of charity in the Church.

### **Sunday, January 16**

**10:00 a.m.** Rita Flora

By Mr. & Mrs. William Miller

### **Wednesday, January 19**

**9:00 a.m.** Donald Siembieda by family

### **Sunday, January 23**

**10:00 a.m.** Mary Terese (Teri) Laret

by Yvonne Laret

## **Please Pray For Our Sick**

**Bob & Lois Slets, Fred Merlo, Catherine McCammon, Frank Modarelli, Jean Descenzo, Christine Kalhoun, Lynn Osting, Blanche Ruggiero**

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

**Mary Alyce Kinnick**

## *Second Sunday in Ordinary Time*

### *St. Francis de Sales: Ignoring a Father's Plans*

It's interesting to speculate what some of the great saints in Church history might have become if they had followed the career paths their parents would have chosen for them. It is amazing how many times Church historians have told us that a future saint's failure to please a mother or father has led to a life that enriched untold thousands of believers along the way.

Such is the case of Francis de Sales (1567-1622), the saint the Church honors on Jan. 24. Born Francis Bonaventure de Sales, the eldest of 13 children (his mother was only 15 when he was born), he was the son of a worldly aristocrat "who planned a brilliant career for him in military life," according to one Church historian.

To please his father, he took lessons in riding, dancing and fencing, but even as a young man his interests turned to theology and religious life; he is said to have taken a vow of chastity in

SAINT  
FRANCIS DE SALES  
*Pray For Us*



his teens. Francis then spent six years studying in Paris before his father called him home, then sent him to the University of Padua for four years to study law. Francis was brilliant at it; he earned a Doctorate in Law at 24 and led the life of a nobleman for 18 months.

Even then he could not resist a call to priesthood, and with his connections among important circles, he was quickly ordained to priesthood at 26 in 1593, despite the strenuous opposition of his family. He quickly became a provost in Geneva and within a few years had returned some 8,000 Calvinists to the Catholic faith by the power of his preaching. By 1602 he had become the bishop of Geneva and "a leading figure of the Counter-Reformation that saved Catholicism in Europe," a Catholic historian noted. He was widely known for his wisdom and learning.

Continued on Page 4

### *Sunday's Scriptures: The Sweep of Salvation History*

In the January 9 first reading last week, there was a passage from the prophet Isaiah (42: 1-9). In that passage, God is speaking through his prophet to send encouragement to a people experiencing the pains of exile.

In the past, God had delivered His people from slavery in Egypt. He gave them the Law on Mount Sinai and fed them with manna in the desert. He made a covenant with them, brought them through the wilderness, and eventually gave them the land of Canaan. Through all of this, they became a nation and built a temple to worship the Lord.

For centuries, they were granted military victories under the command of kings and generals. There were many times they sinned and did not keep the Covenant, hence the need for prophets to call them back to God.

In the sixth century B.C., a catastrophe happened. Israel was invaded and defeated by the Babylonians, the Temple was destroyed, Jerusalem plundered, and they were taken to Babylon, where they remained for 70 years.

Babylon's victory was absolute. Israel was devastated politically, economically, and socially.

Their religious life suffered, since they were removed from access to the Temple.

Into this devastating period of Israel's history, Isaiah speaks a word to the people of God, reminding them of Who God is and the larger purpose of His plan for them. Isaiah tells them that a Spirit-filled Servant of God will appear for them, not as a conqueror or tyrant but as a liberator who will bring justice. A remarkably beautiful image is presented of the Servant's gentleness and mercy, "a bruised reed He will not break, and a smoldering wick He will not quench." That paints a picture of an incredibly careful and gentle liberator.

We have just celebrated the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ. Born in a simple cave in Bethlehem, and placed in a manger (a feeding trough for animals), He lives and dies the gentle liberator of all peoples. No matter how vulnerable and bruised we may be, Jesus will tenderly touch us without the "reed" that is our life being broken. This is really Good News.

—Geri Jacquet

## St. Francis de Sales

Continued From Page 3

Also noted as an outstanding confessor, he founded the Visitandine Order of women with St. Jane de Chantal, and wrote what became two spiritual classics: Introduction to the Devout Life and Treatise on the Love of God. One historian noted that Francis was known for "being tender in his reception of sinners and apostates who had returned to their faith." Happily, his worldly father died reconciled to the future saint.

But Francis' tireless work and excessive travel as a bishop among his faithful broke down his health. He died in 1622 at 56 in the 20th year of his episcopate. Recognized immediately for his sanctity, he was beatified in 1661 and canonized in 1665 by the same pope, unusual at the time. He was named a Doctor of the Church in 1877. He is the patron of the Catholic press in the U.S. and Canada. St. Francis de Sales, pray for us.

— Lou Jacquet

### January Ministry Schedule

**Lectors:** Jerry Kernan, Jennifer Gatto  
(split 5-week schedule)

**Eucharistic Ministers:** Debora Flora, Mark Flora (split 5-week schedule)

**Servers:** Noah Gatto, Elijah Gatto, David McClain (all Sundays)

### February Ministry Schedule

**Lectors:** Allyson Reed first two weeks, Deborah Zalovcik, second two weeks

**Eucharistic Ministers:** Linda Feher, first two weeks; Amy Kernan, second two weeks

**Servers:** Chris Bonacci, Christian Bonacci, Michael Baltes (all Sundays)

## Your Sacrificial Offering

Amount needed monthly to meet expenses

For January 2022 **\$29,440.00**

### Week of January 9

Sunday Collection	\$3,731.00
Increased Operating Exp.	\$180.00
Major Repairs	\$215.00
Rentals	\$1,050.00
Maint. Support	\$1,110.00
Total	\$6,286.00

2 week total \$11,662 ; goal of \$29,440; \$17,778 short

**WE COUNT MEMBERS BECAUSE MEMBERS COUNT!**

Mass 1/9 10 a.m. 97



*RECTORY*

2800 Oakwood Avenue  
Youngstown, OH 44509-2002  
Phone: 330-792-3875 Fax: 330-792-9080

*MISSION STATEMENT*

*We are called to be  
disciples, faithful to Jesus  
and empowered by the Spirit.  
We are committed to building the kingdom of  
God by living the Gospel,  
celebrating the sacraments  
and loving our neighbor as ourselves.*

*PARISH STAFF*

Administrator

Father Steven Agostino Ext. 11  
Email: [sagostino@youngstowndiocese.org](mailto:sagostino@youngstowndiocese.org)

Parish Secretary

Liz Shina Ext.10  
Email: [office@stbrendanyo.org](mailto:office@stbrendanyo.org)

Music Director

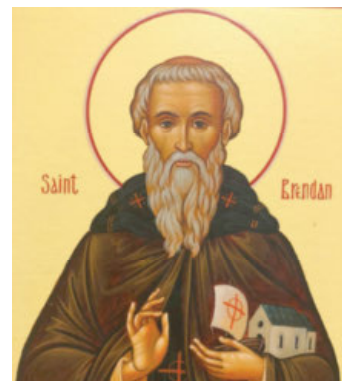
Geri Jacquet

Assistant Music Director

Allyson Reed

*MASS Sunday 10:00 am*

*Wednesday 9:00 am*



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