



THE WITNESS

OUR LADY QUEEN OF MARTYRS

CATHOLIC CHURCH & SCHOOL

JANUARY 23, 2022 | THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



MASS SCHEDULE

SUNDAY MASS

Saturday | 5:00pm
Sunday | 8:00am, 10:00am,
12:00pm

WEEKDAY MASS

Monday through Friday | 8:30am

PERPETUAL HELP DEVOTIONS

Wednesday | Following Mass

EXPOSITION & ADORATION OF THE EUCHARIST

First Fridays | Following Mass
Benediction | 6:45pm

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Saturday | 3:00pm-3:30pm
Or by Appointment

PARISH OFFICE HOURS

Monday-Friday 8:30am-4:30pm
Closed for lunch 12:00 -1:00pm






THE SPIRIT OF THE LORD IS UPON ME...
- LK 4:18

3RD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

EXCERPTS FROM THE LECTIONARY FOR MASS ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD. ©LPI

OUR PARISH MISSION STATEMENT

Our Lady Queen of Martyrs, through its members, is called to be a sign and sacrament of salvation to the entire Catholic Community. Essential to this Mission is the work of spreading Christian life and teachings.

 [Facebook.com/OLQM.MI](https://www.facebook.com/OLQM.MI)
 [Twitter.com/OlqmMI](https://twitter.com/OlqmMI)
 [Instagram.com/OLQM.MI](https://www.instagram.com/OLQM.MI)

PARISH INFORMATION AND CONTACTS

OUR LADY QUEEN OF MARTYRS CATHOLIC CHURCH & SCHOOL

PARISH OFFICE

32340 Pierce Street,
Beverly Hills, MI 48025
248-644-8620
248-644-8623 (Fax)

SCHOOL

32460 Pierce Street,
Beverly Hills, MI 48025
248-642-2616

FAITH FORMATION OFFICE

32460 Pierce Street,
Beverly Hills, MI 48025
248-647-6068

THIS WEEK AT OLQM

Monday, January 24

8:30 am Mass
5:00 pm Faith Formation
7:00 pm Boy Scouts

Tuesday, January 25

8:30 am Mass
6:30 pm First Reconciliation
Retreat
7:00 pm Catholic Biblical
School of Michigan

Wednesday, January 26

8:30 am Mass/Perpetual Help
Devotions
12:30 pm Endow Group
7:30 pm Choir Practice

Thursday, January 27

8:30 am Mass

Friday, January 28

8:30 am Mass

Saturday, January 29

3:00 pm Confession
5:00 pm Mass

Sunday, January 30

8:00 am Mass
10:00 am Mass
11:00 am School Open House
11:00 am RCIA
12:00 am Mass



PARISH STAFF

REV. JAMES A. SMALARZ
Pastor

MSGR. RONALD T. BROWNE
Weekend Assistant

REV. MR. CHRIS BELTOWSKI
Deacon

MR. MICHAEL HUGHES
Pastoral Associate
mhughes@olqm-parish.org

MRS. KATIE WOLFF
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Faith Formation Director
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MR. MARTIN ZAPORSKI
Music Director

MR. ADAM MARTIN
Maintenance Supervisor
amartin@olqm-parish.org

SACRAMENT INFORMATION

RECONCILIATION

Saturdays 3:00 to 3:30; or by appointment by contacting the Parish Office.

MATRIMONY

Contact the Parish Office at least 6 months in advance to schedule your Holy Matrimony preparation.

BAPTISM

Please contact the Parish Office.

ANOINTING OF THE SICK

Please contact the Parish Office.

PARISH COUNCIL

Mark Everly, Chair,
Mark Cope, Pat Costello, Mary Gilhuly,
Ed Metsker, Patty Racco, Lucia Saad,
Brad Simmons

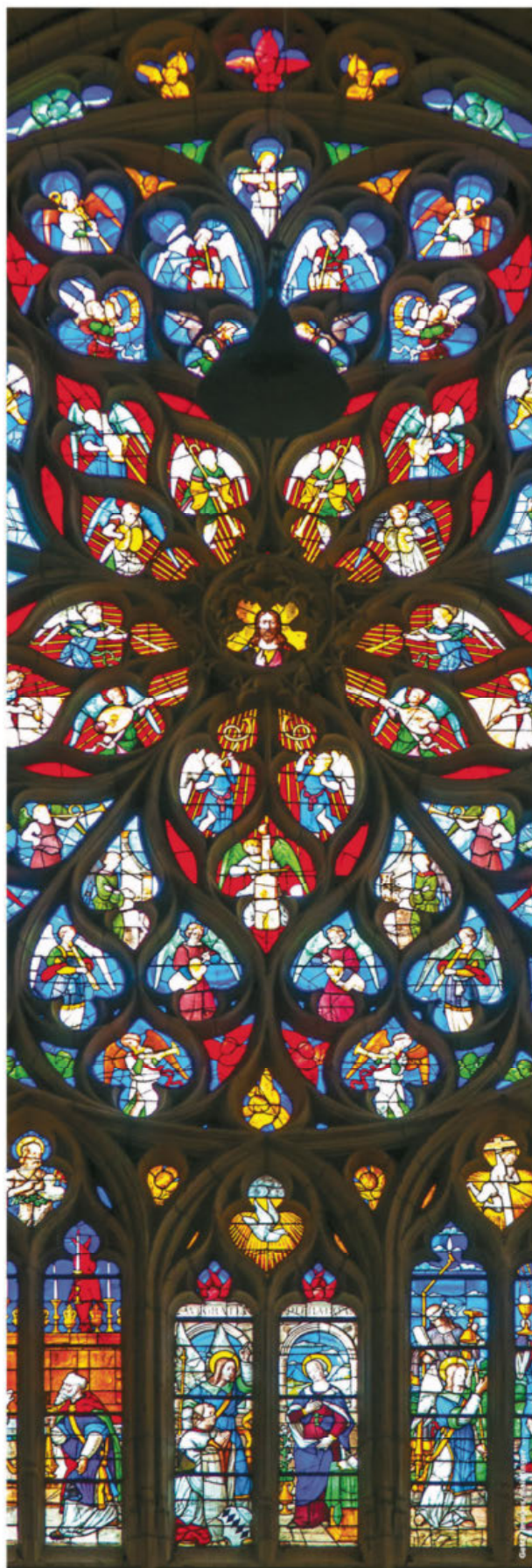
FINANCE COUNCIL

Brad Simmons, Chair,
Jen Byrne, Joe Heikkila, Angie Janssen,
Joe Kaperzinski, Bernie Ronnisch,
Dan Totonchi, Tim Weed

BULLETIN DEADLINE

Copy due by 12:00 pm on
Friday of the preceding week.

Deliver to the Parish Office
or email copy to:
satwell@olqm-parish.org



January 23, 2022

Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

Neh 8:2-4a, 5-6, 8-10 | 1 Cor 12:12-30 or 1 Cor 12:12-14, 27 | Lk 1:1-4; 4:14-21

Written by
THE
FAITHFUL
DISCIPLE

GROW AS A DISCIPLE | PRAY, STUDY, ENGAGE, SERVE

Do you ever find yourself feeling like you are at the cusp of something remarkable? Like you are witnessing an incredible, historic, athletic, or aeronautical feat? I wonder if that's what it was like for the followers of Jesus when he began his public ministry: "News of him spread throughout the whole region. He taught in their synagogues and was praised by all." In today's Gospel, Jesus reads the words of the prophet Isaiah that are effectively a "job description" of his mission: glad tidings to the poor, liberty of captives, sight to the blind, freedom for the oppressed. What Isaiah prophesied, Jesus claims to fulfill. He thus inaugurates his public ministry with a claim that is straightforward, bold, true, and of great consequence. Today, by virtue of our baptism, we are part of the body of Christ and share in that mission. Whatever our backgrounds, abilities, or talents, we each have something to contribute to building up one another and the Church. And with the help of the Holy Spirit, we, too, can be bold in our own proclamation of Jesus Christ as Lord.

GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

We've heard the phrase "Don't sell yourself short." Social media aside, many of us tend to focus on our shortcomings: We may wish we could run faster, be better at our jobs, have a cleaner home, in general, "get it together!" Truth is, we're all works in progress. That's what I love about Paul's Letter to the Corinthians. He reminds us that each one of us - whatever our strengths or weaknesses - is part of the body of Christ. God loves us with our imperfections, not in spite of them. As such, each of us has indispensable value and much to contribute to the mission of the Church. As we move into the week ahead, today's readings invite us to place ourselves at the service of the Church and one another. Beyond that, we can invite others to join us by recognizing that God values the talents - and foibles - that each of us brings to his service.

PRAY Yesterday on the liturgical calendar was the Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children. As members of the body of Christ, let us join our voices with the universal Church and pray a Pro-Life Rosary each night this week. The USCCB Prayers and Devotions page is a good resource.

Deacon Chris's Corner.....



One of the key moments in my relationship with God was when I realized how much I loved Him. I had always been told as a child and while I grew up, and even to this day, "God loves you!" So, I knew that God loved me. But what I didn't realize early on was that I loved Him back. This love for Him was not something I had developed on my own. It was grace from God to be able to love him. But it was certainly my response and choice to His grace.

In today's Gospel, we hear Luke address his introduction to a person named "Theophilus". It is mainly believed that this is a person he is addressing, although it could really be a group of people or anyone that falls under the definition of what "Theophilus" means. Theophilus in Greek means *God loves* or *lover of God*. So, anyone listening who loves God or is loved by God, Luke is speaking to. That means you and me.

We can easily deduce that God loves us. We know this to be true in that He sent His Son, Jesus Christ, into the world to die on the cross to save us from our sins and bring us into the Kingdom of Heaven for all eternity. We know He loves us because He gave us His Church to guide us to the way of salvation. We know that He loves us because He gave us the Sacraments as means to see His invisible reality come to light for us through the grace He bestows upon us, especially through the Eucharist.

The questions we need to ask ourselves are: do we love Him? Have we responded to His grace? Have we made the choice to put Him first in every area of our lives? Are we fulfilling His commandment to love our neighbor as ourselves? He died for us, are we willing to die to ourselves and follow Him?

With great gratitude to God,

Deacon Chris

"I too have decided, after investigating everything accurately anew, to write it down in an orderly sequence for you, most excellent Theophilus, so that you may realize the certainty of the teachings you received." (Luke 1:3-4)

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS FREE THROW CHAMPIONSHIP



Attention OLQM Families!

All boys and girls - ages 9 to 14 - are invited to participate in the 2022 Knights of Columbus Free Throw Championship, hosted by OLQM Council 15352! Winners will advance to a regional competition and will compete for a spot in the State Championship.

The OLQM competition will be held **Sunday, January 23rd**, in the OLQM gym. Doors will open at 2:00 pm, with competition starting at 2:30 pm. All shooters must arrive by 2:25 to participate.

Participants must be accompanied by **ONE parent/adult guardian** who will also retrieve rebounds for them. Registration will include proof of age and completion of health screening forms prior to competing. Ages are as of January 1, 2022

All attendees **MUST** wear masks & temperatures will be taken.

Water will not be available – **bring your own water bottle**. Basketballs will be provided – **do not bring your own ball**.

Winners will be decided in each age group for boys and girls.

Questions? Contact Jerry Krivda

(248-420-9233 or gtriv@comcast.net)

**OLQM Ministers Schedule
for January 29-30**

Readers

5:00pm	TBD
8:00am	Dennis Thome
10:00am	Jim Loch
12:00pm	TBD

Extraordinary Ministers

5:00pm	Sue Melendy Volunteer needed Volunteer needed
8:00am	Kathy Hagaman Volunteer needed Volunteer needed
10:00am	Michael Hughes Rosa Stockel Volunteer needed
12:00pm	Volunteer needed Volunteer needed Volunteer needed

GOSPEL MEDITATION

January 16, 2022

3RD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Human history reveals many periods where people lost a sense of God’s transcendence. It may even be argued that human beings have been wandering and lost more than they have been at home and focused. Human nature being what it is, we struggle with who God really is — the God of our salvation history or the “gods” of human constructs. Relying on our own designs and pursuits, we forget that we really are meant to listen to One upon whom the Spirit of the Lord rests, Jesus Christ, and not to ourselves. That same history that reveals our fickleness and infidelity also reveals God’s constancy and faithfulness. God always finds us.

As people wander and fumble to find their way, God is there bringing them back to holiness and giving them the assurance of His presence. We have to allow God’s Word, God’s life, to touch us and change us. It can make us more flexible and attentive to the sacred in all facets of life so that every day is one that is holy. Every day is a time when fulfillment is possible for one’s soul. Jesus stood before those gathered in the synagogue as the fulfillment of words of promise that were echoed long ago. God doesn’t forget. He always comes for us.

Now it is time to remember to go to God. Sometimes our lives are so confused and tangled that it is difficult to see the Word and hand of God. But when we realize, deep within, the depth of friendship God offers to us it really has the power to turn sadness to joy. The promise is fulfilled. Going frequently to God’s Word, allowing ourselves to be enriched and rejuvenated, and pondering the certainly of God’s fidelity and promise permanently transforms us. We will be more aware of the sacred and the holy and less invested in things that pull us away.

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Donate

“Each must do as already determined, without sadness or compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.”
— 2Cor 9:7



Scan the code to contribute a one time donation or to set up a weekly online offering.

Parish Office Hours

The OLQM parish office is open from 8:30am-4:30pm Mon-Fri. The office is closed for lunch each day from Noon-1:00pm.

The OLQM Chapel is open daily for prayer and adoration from 7:00am - 10:00pm.

Our Lady Queen of Martyrs, pray for us.



9 DAYS FOR LIFE
PRAY TO PROTECT HUMAN LIFE!

3 WAYS TO JOIN



9DaysforLife.com

JANUARY 19-27, 2022

9 Days for Life is a novena for the protection of human life. Each day’s intention is accompanied by a short reflection and suggested actions to help build a culture of life.



Join today at www.9daysforlife.com!

The OLQM Knights of Columbus will be hosting a virtual rosary on Zoom this Thursday evening to close the 9 Days For Life Novena.

Thursday, Jan. 27th at 7:00 PM – Closing Rosary
Zoom Rosary - <https://bit.ly/OLQM9DaysClose2022>
Meeting ID: 874 4465 0257
Passcode: KqYF14





From the Office of Faith Formation

Sunday Family Session 5, February 13: We will hopefully meet in person but stay tuned as we may need to adjust to virtual again. Currently students should be completing chapters 14 and 15 in their Alive in Christ texts.

Monday After School: Grades 1-6 will meet virtually on January 24, 31 and February 7, 14, 28.
Grades 7 and 8 will meet **in person** on these dates.

First Reconciliation Retreat: January 25, 6:30pm in the Church



From the Alive on Christ Unit 5 Teaching Resource: Stages of Moral Development

Kohlberg's theory of moral development outlined six stages within three different levels. He extended the moral components of Piaget's theory of cognitive development, proposing that moral development is a continual process that occurs throughout one's lifespan. The following outlines those stages.

Level 1: Preconventional Morality

Stage 1—Obedience and Punishment

The earliest stage of moral development is especially common in young children, but adults are also capable of expressing this type of reasoning. At this stage, children see rules as fixed and absolute. Obeying the rules is important because it is a means to avoid punishment.

Stage 2—Individualism and Exchange

At this stage of moral development, children account for individual points of view and judge actions based on how they serve their own individual needs. Reciprocity is possible, but only if it serves one's own interests. This is often called pleasure/pain stage. What gives me pleasure is right.

Level 2: Conventional Morality

Stage 3—Interpersonal Relationships

Often referred to as the "good boy-good girl" orientation, this stage of moral development is focused on living up to social expectations and roles. There is an emphasis on conformity, being "nice," and consideration of how choices influence relationships.

Stage 4—Maintaining Social Order

At this stage of moral development, people begin to consider the social group when making judgments. The focus is on maintaining law and order, by following the rules, doing one's duty, and respecting authority.

Next week: Level 3 with Stages 5 and 6

Mary Garlow, Director of Faith Formation
mgarlow@olqm-parish.org
248-647-6068

Share the Warmth *Sock Hop Drop*



*Happy
Valentine's
Day*

"One of you says to them, 'Go in peace, stay warm and be filled,' yet you do not give them what is necessary for their body, what use is that?" James 2:16



OLQM is collecting
New Mens White Crew Socks
for those in need.

Weekend of Feb. 12-13

Please drop off new socks in
designated bins in the church vestibule.

Thank You For Your Support!

Questions? Please contact Sr. Francesca at
srfrancesca@olqm-parish.org or 248-644-8620

Christian Service Connection

"Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God." Hebrews 13:16

Sr. Francesca Thérèse, OSF
Christian Service Director

248-644-8620 - srfrancesca@olqm-parish.org

MARTIN LUTHER KING DAY at OLQM

Martin Luther King Jr. Day is the only federal holiday designated as a National Day of Service to encourage all Americans to volunteer to improve their communities. A famous quote of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. is, "Life's most persistent and urgent question is: *'What are you doing for others?'*"

OLQM Christian Service teamed up with OLQM School Outreach Elective Students and wrapped 650 Hershey bars with a message of peace, love, and hope to show our care and support for the students and faculty of Oxford High School. Giant cards were decorated and signed by many. Thank you to Mary Gilhuly and Steve Klapner for designing the wrapper and donating the paper, Mrs. McMahan for making copies, Gina Krivda for cutting out, Ray Ritter for delivering, and all the volunteers below who helped to make this outreach project a success.



Thank you for your love of Jesus and of OLQM. Thank you for all you are and all you do to make OLQM the amazing, faith-filled, loving, serving parish family that we are today!

Together we *are* making a difference in the life and spirit of our community.
Peace and All Good,



Sr. Francesca Thérèse, OSF Christian Service Director
Preach the Gospel at all times, when necessary use words.



OUR LADY
QUEEN OF MARTYRS
CATHOLIC CHURCH & SCHOOL

SCHOOL OPEN HOUSE

Sunday, January 30, 11am - 1:30pm



- Project Based Learning
- Virtue Project
- Individualized Instruction
- Advisor/Advisee Program
- Elective Classes
- CYO Programs
- Academic Rigor
- Performing Arts (Band, Choir, WAMS)
- Orchestra (available starting in second grade)
- Social Emotional Classes Weekly (for all grade levels)
- Class Representative Leadership Council
- Preschool Programs
- Eureka Math
- Daily School Prayer
- National Junior Honor Society
- Orton Gillingham Phonics Program
- Readers and Writers Workshops
- Commitment to Service



Our Lady Queen of Martyrs is a Catholic Community dedicated to nurturing students who will contribute to the world through faith, character, and lifelong learning.





From the School



From Mrs. Foret's middle school classes:

Our 7th and 8th grade religion classes and Christian Service elective have been busy with lots of fun projects in the past few months. In September and October, the Christian Service students organized a project to honor veterans. We spearheaded an effort to write 200 letters to veterans from the OLQM school children; we made facebook videos to thank veterans; and we volunteered our time after Sunday Mass to hand out a small thank you gift to veterans.

In November, the whole middle school did a fall leaf raking for neighborhood parishioners.

In December, all of the 7th and 8th grade students researched symbols of Advent and Christmas, prepared slideshow presentations, and then presented to the Kindergarten and 1st grade classes. Every week, the 7th and 8th grade students dive into the gospel, discuss it as a class, and try to apply it to our lives. We have watched episodes of The Chosen, which makes the gospel come alive and we go to the church each week, to spend quiet time praying, reading the bible, or writing in our prayer journals.

Happy New Year to OLQM parish from the OLQM middle school!
We appreciate all you do as a parish to support our school!
OLQM school and parish is a great place to be in 2022!

God bless,
Amy Foret





**PLEASE REMEMBER
IN YOUR PRAYERS...**

- | | |
|--------------------|-------------------------|
| Dennis Bachellar | Monica Madigan |
| Wendy Bachellar | Jerry Mansfield |
| Gianna Baracos | Gary Mark |
| Charles Barron | Audrey Markiewicz |
| Charlie Blank | Diane Mattis |
| Judy Canero | Derek McAleer |
| Isabella Cichoski | Michael McCauley |
| Janet Chrzanowski | Scott McFall |
| Gerri Compton | Marcia Michaels |
| Nicholas Cornfield | Arlene Naas |
| Bill Donnelly | Theodore Orlicki |
| Michael Drellas | Carl Papa |
| Marion Easton | Joanne Pastula |
| Darren Eisenberg | Owen Peraino |
| Nancy Finnell | Rosa Maria Petrozzi |
| Lia Geftos | Dawn Pfander |
| Carol Gilhuly | Richard Ricci |
| Benicio Goulding | David Roznowski |
| Steve Gucciardo | Amanda Ruth |
| Ian Haezebrouck | Rebecca Ruth |
| Brian Hall | The Sewell Family |
| David Harrison | Bill Schellpfeffer |
| Richard Harrison | Hope Sovran |
| Joel Holland | Donna Stieber |
| Lisa Janes | Ann Marie Teli |
| Larry Jonas | Carson Toepfer |
| Susan Karwacki | Msgr. Dan Trapp |
| Carol Keller | Barbara Trotta |
| William Kibbe | Eric Vergeldt |
| Ken Koller | Arlene Walsh |
| Dennis Lacelle | Tom Warner |
| Dolores Lowe | Michael Waterman |
| Richard Lowe | Sue Weed |
| Joanne MacDonald | Christine Wing-Jaworski |
| | Charli Zafarana |

Pray for the Sick!

Prayer for Vocations

O Virgin Mary, we commend to you those who seek to follow your son as priests, brothers and sisters. You know the difficulties, struggles and obstacles they face. Assist them to utter their “yes” to the divine call as you did at the invitation of the angel. Draw them near to your heart so that they may understand the joy and beauty that awaits when the Lord calls them. Make them witness the Lord’s love. Enable them to inspire the church with their consecration. May your all powerful intercession touch the hearts of many that they may respond to the Lord’s call. Repeat to them in the depths of their hearts what you said to the waiters at Cana: “Do whatever Jesus asks.” Amen.
Pope John Paul II

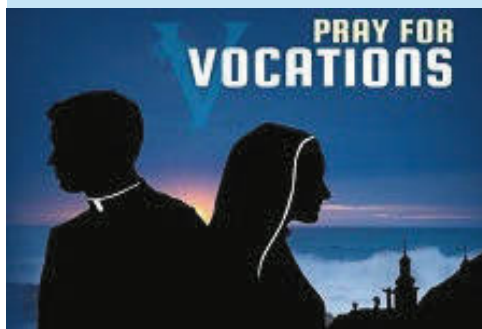
Please pray for our OLMQ parishioners who are currently in formation:

Josh Burcroff
Archdiocese of Detroit

Dan Dixon
Society of Jesus

Sr. Solanus Mary
(*Mary Margaret Payne*)
Franciscan Sisters of the
Renewal

Kevin Zaporski
Priestly Fraternity of St. Peter



We Remember

In Loving Memory

Our sympathy goes out
to the family of
Beverly Freshwater
(Mother of Brian Freshwater)



CATHOLIC TRIVIA

JUST FOR FUN

Question:

Who are the three Biblical archangels?

Last Week’s Answer:

Who is the patron saint of lost things?

St. Anthony of Padua

©LPi



MASS INTENTIONS for the week of January 24 to January 30

MONDAY, JANUARY 24

8:30 am †Dan Voss
†Nancy Bokenkotter

TUESDAY, JANUARY 25

8:30 am †Dan Voss
†Elizabeth Larsen

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 26

8:30 am †Dan Voss

THURSDAY, JANUARY 27

8:30 am †Dan Voss

FRIDAY, JANUARY 28

8:30 am Special intention for
Allison Maxine Jacobs

SATURDAY, JANUARY 29

5:00 pm †Dan Voss

SUNDAY, JANUARY 30

8:00 am †Jan Haezebrouck

10:00 am For the people of the parish

12:00 pm †Kathryne M. Fletcher

MASS READINGS for the week of January 23 to January 30

SUNDAY, JANUARY 23

3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time;
St. Vincent, Deacon and Martyr;
St. Marianne Cope, Virgin
Nehemiah 8:2-4a, 5-6, 8-10
Psalms 19:8, 9, 10, 15
1 Corinthians 12:12-30
Luke 1:1-4; 4:14-21

MONDAY, JANUARY 24

St. Francis de Sales, Bishop and
Doctor of the Church
2 Samuel 5:1-7, 10
Psalms 89:20, 21-22, 25-26
Mark 3:22-30

TUESDAY, JANUARY 25

Conversion of St. Paul the Apostle
Acts 22:3-16 or Acts 9:1-22
Psalms 117: 1bc, 2
Mark 16:15-18

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 26

Sts. Timothy and Titus, Bishops
2 Timothy 1:1-8 or Titus 1:1-5
Psalms 89:4-5, 27-28, 29-30
Mark 4:1-20

THURSDAY, JANUARY 27

St. Angela Merici, Virgin
2 Samuel 7:18-19, 24-29
Psalms 132:1-2, 3-5, 11, 12, 13-14
Mark 4:21-25

FRIDAY, JANUARY 28

St. Thomas Aquinas, Priest and
Doctor of the Church
2 Samuel 11:1-4a, 5-10a, 13-17
Psalms 51:3-4, 5-6a, 6bcd-7, 10-11
Mark 4:26-34

SATURDAY, JANUARY 29

2 Samuel 12:1-7a, 10-17
Psalms 51:12-13, 14-15, 16-17
Mark 4:35-41

NEXT SUNDAY, JANUARY 30

4th Sunday in Ordinary Time
Catholic Schools Week
Jeremiah 1:4-5, 17-19
Psalms 71:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 15-17
1 Corinthians 12:31—13:13
Luke 4:21-30

St. Thomas Aquinas

Feast Day: January 28



The man nicknamed by his fellow students as “the Dumb Ox”, St. Thomas Aquinas (1225 – 1274) is one of the Church’s most brilliant theologians and most famous members of the Dominican Order, well-known by many for his theological work, “*The Summa Theologiae*.” Born in Italy, his mother wanted him to become a Benedictine and had high hopes that he would eventually become abbot of Monte Cassino, where he spent much of his youth. To change his vocation, she had him kidnapped by his brothers on his way to Paris at the age of 19. He spent two years in their captivity. Despite this, nothing could shake him from his vocation to become a Dominican priest and he was eventually released. Once free, he went to Paris and then to Cologne, where he finished his studies with Albert the Great.

His greatest contribution to the Catholic Church is his writings. The unity, harmony, and continuity of faith and reason, of revealed and natural human knowledge, encompasses his writings. The *Summa Theologiae*, his last and, unfortunately, uncompleted work, deals with the whole of Catholic theology.

The patron saint of teachers, theologians and students, St. Thomas Aquinas died in 1274. His life and the impact he had on the whole Church, however, remains alive today.

©LPi

Sunday of the Word of God

Today, the Third Sunday of Ordinary Time, we celebrate the **Sunday of the Word of God**. In 2019, Pope Francis instituted the Sunday of the Word of God “so as to appreciate the inexhaustible riches contained in that constant dialogue between the Lord and his people” (*Misericordi et Misera*, 7).

Let’s look at how the Church uses the Scriptures at Mass. God in his goodness and the Church in her wisdom give us plenty to feast upon when we hear the Scriptures proclaimed in the Liturgy of the Word.

The Gospel: Our Sunday Gospels follow a 3 year cycle. In Year A we hear Matthew’s Gospel. Mark’s Gospel is proclaimed in Year B; since this is the shortest of the Gospels, we have a 6 week period in the summer where we read from the Bread of Life Discourse in Chapter 6 of John’s Gospel. In Year C (our Gospel in this year’s cycle) we have excerpts from Luke’s Gospel. In addition to Year B, John’s Gospel is used throughout the 3 year cycle for special feast days and celebrations, such as the Triduum, Easter and Christmas.

The First Reading: While the Gospel readings follow a sequence from week to week, unique Old Testament readings are paired with each Gospel. Sometimes the reason is easy to discern, and sometimes it is more challenging! Making these connections is one of the tasks of the homilist, so pray for those who preach the word. The Church has paired the readings together to show us some aspect of Jesus visible in the Old Testament. Often this is a miracle or parable, but sometimes it is an identity like priest, prophet, king, redeemer, or beloved son.

The Responsorial Psalm: The psalm is meant to be our response to the Word proclaimed. The Psalms are the prayer book of the Bible containing God’s words that we can make our own in every human circumstance: in joy, sorrow, love, grief, comfort, pain, security, or rest. When we pray the Psalms we pray the same words Jesus used to pray to the Father. We praise God in the Psalms and hear Jesus’ voice echo in ours and ours in his (St. Augustine).

The Second Reading: As the First Readings and Gospels show us some aspect of Jesus revealed, the letters of the New Testament show us different aspects of how Jesus works in the Church. The life of the Church in New Testament times was far from simple; Peter, Paul, James, John, and many others had their work cut out for them! We read in Paul’s letters of the many different matters of faith the early Church was trying to comprehend under the guidance of the Holy Spirit. Hearing the letters should increase faith, hope, and love, and the fruits of the Spirit, in our Church today.

This is the Church’s plan for reading the Scriptures every Sunday. You’ll hear a good amount of the Bible at Mass, but not all of it. It is up to every Catholic, every family and parish, to continually set aside time to hear and read the Scriptures, but most importantly to pray with them. *God is speaking to you*. His voice is not so unrecognizable, nor his message so far off. “For this command which I am giving you today is not too wondrous or remote for you... No, it is something very near to you, in your mouth and in your heart, to do it” (Deuteronomy 30:11, 14).



Written by Reverend Brian Meldrum

PRAYER AND WORSHIP

SUNDAY'S READINGS

First Reading:

Ezra read plainly from the book of the law of God,
interpreting it so that all could understand what was read.
(Neh 8:8)

Psalm:

Your words, Lord, are Spirit and life. (Ps 19)

Second Reading:

For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body,
whether Jews or Greeks, slaves or free persons,
and we were all given to drink of one Spirit.
(1 Cor 12:12)

Gospel:

He said to them,
“Today this Scripture passage is fulfilled in your hearing.”
(Lk 1:21)

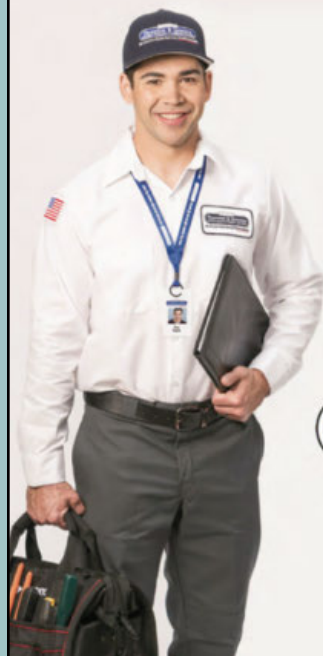
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