

Third Sunday after Epiphany

Masses and Intentions for the Week

Sunday, January 24

Green

Third Sunday after Epiphany, *II Class*

8:00 AM Michelenia Shoyer

11:30 AM Pro populo

Monday, January 25

White

Conversion of St. Paul, *III Class*

7:30 PM Judith Sears +

Tuesday, January 26

Red

St. Polycarp, Bishop/Martyr, *III Class*

12:10 PM Valerie Pease-Helmick +

The name Polycarp means "abundant fruit." He was a disciple of St. John who made him bishop of Smyrna. He defended our Lord's divinity against several heretics and would be martyred at an advanced age, being burned in the middle of an amphitheater and then struck with a sword.

Wednesday, January 27

White

St. John Chrysostom, Bishop/Doctor, *III Class*

No scheduled Mass today.

Of incredible intellect, his powerful eloquence earned him the surname Chrysostom, meaning "golden mouth." With St. Athanasius, Gregory Nazienzen, and Basil, he forms the group of the four great doctors of the Eastern Church. He died in 407.

Thursday, January 28

White

St. Peter Nolasco, Confessor, *III Class*

No scheduled Mass today.

Born of noble and wealthy parents in France, he was commissioned by our Lady to found the order of Our Lady of Mercy for the Ransom of Captives. When all the funds of the work were exhausted, the religious were bound by their rule to take the places of the prisoners with the infidels. He died in 1256.

Friday, January 29

White

St. Francis de Sales, Bishop/Doctor, *III Class*

12:10 PM Scott McVeigh

Born in 1567, he would be sent Chablais in France where his preaching brought back sixty thousand Calvinists to the Catholic Faith. He founded the order of the Visitation and was known for his apostolic zeal and gentle holiness. A prolific writer, his most celebrated books are the *Introduction to the Devout Life* and the *Treatise on the Love of God*. He died in 1622.

Saturday, January 30

Red

St. Martina, Virgin/Martyr, *III Class*

11:00 AM Lucille Bressler + (anniv.)

A noble Roman virgin, St. Martina suffered martyrdom during the persecution of Alexander Severus about 228.

Sunday, January 31

Violet

Septuagesima Sunday, *II Class*

8:00 AM Lorena Fritschy +

11:30 AM Pro Populo

Candlemas Day—February 2

Tuesday, February 2, is the feast of Candlemas honoring our Lord as the Light of all the Nations as announced by Simeon in the temple. There will be a High Mass that evening at 7:30 with the traditional blessing and outdoor procession of candles around the church. Plan to attend!

No Masses Wednesday and Thursday

Please note that there will be no scheduled Masses on Wednesday and Thursday this week as Fr. Saguto will be once again attending required workshops for extern priests at the Palisades.

Haiti Relief Efforts

As we have all seen the devastation in Haiti from the earthquake, we are all bound by charity at this time to pray for the success of the relief efforts there and, if means permit, to support any of the good charities involved in the effort. The Rosary before the 11:30 Sunday Mass will include these intentions.

First Communion Registration

Registration forms for First Communion classes are available in the vestibule. Please fill them out (one form per child) and return by mail or by dropping them in a marked envelope in the collection basket by Sunday, February 7. Classes are scheduled to begin on Sunday, February 14. If there is a question about a child's eligibility, please contact Fr. Saguto.

2009 Contribution Statements

Contribution statements for 2009 have been mailed for recorded donations to NAM totaling \$200.00 or greater. If an error is suspected, or a more detailed statement is desired, please contact the rectory.

Sunday Potlucks Help

Reminder that potlucks follow the 11:30 Mass on the second and fourth Sundays of the months in the school cafeteria. These have proved to be successful in building camaraderie in the parish and providing a forum to meet new parishioners and visitors. Please be sure to bring a lunch dish to share so there is plenty to go around! Also, those attending are asked to simply make sure the area around where they ate is tidied before leaving as this will greatly help with the general cleanup. Thank you!

Mass Intentions

Please note that Mass requests are restricted to registered

parishioners or families of North American Martyrs. The next available dates are in March.

Please Keep In Your Prayers:

David Hobbs, Brian Buttigieg, Rosemary St. Armand, Linda Vogel, Charles Barber, Jr., Mary Lynn Kenary, Louis Leclezio, Anita Aylard, Liz Rote, Carolyn Barber, Stephanie Brusich, Mai-Trang Thi Huynh, Nicholas Scheetz, Caroline Marie Scheetz, Mary McKinsey, Mark Hillis, Fr. Ramon Velasco +, Patricia Fazio +, John Hillis +, Thomas Flood +, Alfredo Du +, Helen Groves +, Judith Hilterman +

Contributions *May God reward your generosity.*

January 10	\$4914.80
January 17	\$5146.48

Calendar of Events

January 24	Potluck
January 31	Septuagesima
February 2	Candlemas Day
February 14	First Communion Classes Begin
February 17	Ash Wednesday

A Final Thought...

Multiplied appeals for relief in our grief-stricken world always find a ready response in the hearts of generous people. It is interesting to note how many appeals are based on human vanity, such as “the largest donor during the week will receive such and such a prize.” These are but enlarged reactions of the beggar who knows enough to use a tin cup in order that the giver will always have the “reward” of hearing the “clink” in the bottom of the cup. The tin cup is not in order that the blind man may hear the gift fall, but in order that the giver may know that his gift has fallen.

To such promised rewards of praise, notoriety, and publicity, the words of the Savior are in striking contrast: “When you give alms, do not sound a trumpet before thee as the hypocrites in the streets, to win the esteem of men.” The trumpets have now given way to broadcasts and telecasts, but the purpose is the same: to let other men know of our generousities. It was a custom of great personages in the past to blow trumpets as they passed through crowds and then scatter coins to gain the good will of the poor. Now the trumpet has been succeeded by broadcasts or telecasts or the press, but the purpose is ever the same: to gain honor among men. It is not the publicity itself which is bad, but rather the ungodly motive for which it is sought.

Everything evil in the world is a perversion of something

good. Evil is either an excess or a defect of the good. The goodness associated with all charity and benevolence is twofold: first, that righteous and good actions ought to be rewarded; second, that the prospect of reward is a legitimate stimulus for giving. Every man knows in his heart that there ought to be some blessing following his gift, and that this blessing ought to be an encouragement of his goodness. But though these aspirations and instincts are good, they become evil when the blessing one wants is the praise of men through the soundings of announcements over television, radio, or pictures in the paper.

The point that our Blessed Lord made was that our overanxiety about public approval disqualifies us for receiving His reward. This is an advertising age: the flowers that He made to grow and waste their perfume on the desert air are now in exhibition halls. It is hard, therefore, in the face of a world spirit, to avoid publicity and the receiving of our reward from men rather than from God. Of those who court praise, Our Lord said: “They have already received their reward.” They sought human ostentation and they received it; they get exactly what they hoped for and thereby they lose the rewards which God stores up for them. Thus the greatness of the gift is spoiled by the littleness of the motive.

Actually, those who seek applause for their gifts do not really give at all—they buy. They are not surrendering—they are purchasing. They are less impressed with the needs of others than they are with the heed that will be given to them. Their gift is a kind of speculation. They made an investment in publicity and they look for their adequate returns. It is so easy for the eye to wander from the hungry person to whom the offering is made, to the bystanders that they may notice what we have given.

That generous souls may not be overinterested in trumpets and broadcasts, our Divine Master followed with this counsel: “When thou givest alms, do so that your left hand knowest not what your right hand giveth.” This means that the giver will not dwell on the greatness of his gift nor on the observation of others. He is to be like the harp whose vibrations are unseen when it gives out the note.

There is another blessing than the praise of men. To love the poor because we gain something is not to love them, but to love ourselves. The reward contemplated should be nothing else than growth in likeness of the Father and the increase of our filial consciousness. Then our giving will always be in the spirit that we are perhaps more needy than those whom we have helped. They need only a roof over their heads; we need, however, the crushing of our egotism and the blessing of God in our hearts.

Archbishop Fulton Sheen