

Septuagesima Sunday

Masses and Intentions for the Week

Sunday, January 31

Violet

Septuagesima Sunday, *II Class*

8:00 AM Lorena Fritschy +

11:30 AM Pro populo

Monday, February 1

Red

St. Ignatius of Antioch, Bishop/Martyr, *III Class*

7:30 PM Alfredo Du +

One of the finest examples of a bishop in the early Church, he was condemned to the wild beasts and sent to Rome in chains. On his way there, he wrote magnificent letters to the churches, exhorting obedience to the Church, and in which his great love of Christ and ardent desire for martyrdom find expression: "I am the wheat of Christ; may I be ground by the fangs of wild beasts and become a bread with no impurity." He died around 110.

Tuesday, February 2

White

Purification of Our Lady (Candlemas), *II Class*

12:10 PM Marie Miller +

Wednesday, February 3

Red

St. Blase, Bishop/Martyr, *IV Class*

7:30 PM Raymond W. Scheetz +

Bishop of Sebaste in Armenia, he died a martyr in 316. Miraculously saving a child choking on a fish bone, he is the patron against diseases of the throat.

Thursday, February 4

White

St. Andrew Corsini, Bishop, *III Class*

12:10 PM Ronald Marquis

A famous Carmelite friar who became bishop of Friesole, he was known for his great love of the poor and as a peacemaker. He died in 1373.

Friday, February 5

Red

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

12:10 PM Karl May +

7:30 PM Scott Esary

Little is known of the date on which St. Agatha, patroness of Catania in Sicily, underwent martyrdom, as well as the circumstances of her arrest. But her cultus became widespread and renowned. She is mentioned in the Canon.

Saturday, February 6

White

St. Titus, Bishop, *III Class*

11:00 AM Michael Sears

After accompanying St. Paul on several of his missionary journeys, Titus, whom St. Paul called his disciple and well-beloved brother, settled in Crete, having been made bishop of the island by St. Paul. It was there that St. Paul composed his epistle to him that forms part of Sacred Scripture.

Sunday, February 7

Violet

Sexagesima Sunday, *II Class*

8:00 AM Joseph S. Arena +

11:30 AM Pro Populo

6:00 PM Private Intention

Season of Septuagesima

Today marks the beginning of the season of Septuagesima. From the Latin meaning *seventy* the Church has traditionally used this time as a liturgical preparation for Lent, effecting a transition from the joyful sentiments of Christmas to the somber penitential season of Lent. The next three Sundays are respectively called Septuagesima (70), Sexagesima (60), and Quinquagesima (50), and are so named because in the early days of the Church many communities began the Lenten fast fifty, sixty, or seventy days before Easter in order not to have to fast every day of the forty. Violet is worn on Sundays, the Gloria omitted (although organ still permitted), and the joyful Alleluia will not be heard at any Mass until the Easter Vigil. This is a good period for us all to reflect on our spiritual progress since last Easter and, in turn, begin consideration of a suitable penance for Lent.

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!

St. Blase Day—February 3

Wednesday is the feast of St. Blase, the patron against throat ailments. Throats will be blessed following all the Masses from Wednesday through Sunday. The translation of the blessing that is given: *Through the intercession of St. Blase, Bishop and Martyr, may God deliver thee from sickness of the throat and from every other evil: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost.*

First Friday and Saturday Reminder

This Friday and Saturday are the firsts of the month. There will be a second Mass on Friday evening at 7:30, concluding with Benediction. Both Friday Masses are followed by prayers of reparation to the Sacred Heart. The Litany of Our Lady follows the Saturday Mass.

Sunday Evening Mass in Tacoma

Arrangements have been made for a weekly Sunday evening Tridentine Mass at 6:00 at Visitation Church, 3314 S. 58th Street, in Tacoma, beginning next Sunday, February 7. Confessions will precede the Mass. Although only limited services are available, the arrangement is being set up as "station" to NAM, meaning that, while under the direct care and overseeing of NAM, the

finances, sacramental records, and Mass stipends will be kept separate from those of NAM.

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.

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 April.

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, Mary McKinsey, Mark Hillis, Patricia Fazio +, John Hillis +, Thomas Flood +, Alfredo Du +, Helen Groves +, Judith Hilterman +

Contributions *May God reward your generosity.*

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Calendar of Events

January 31 Septuagesima
February 2 Candlemas Day
February 5/6 First Friday/First Saturday
February 14 First Communion Classes Begin
February 17 Ash Wednesday

A Final Thought...

The first step toward conversion always consists in humbly recognizing the need to be converted. The

lukewarm must become fervent, the fervent must reach perfection, the perfect must attain heroic virtue. Who can say that he does not need to advance in virtue and in sanctity? Each new step effects a new conversion to God. St. Paul urges us to undertake this ceaseless spiritual labor. To reach sanctity, we must never tire of running and striving, as those who run in the stadium struggle and exert themselves "to receive a corruptible crown, but we an incorruptible one. I therefore so run...not as one beating the air, but I chastise my body and bring it into subjection." (1 Cor 10). This is the first point of conversion: a generous struggle to overcome ourselves, to conquer evil, and achieve goodness; denial of self by humility, denial of the body by physical mortification. Only those who struggle and exert themselves will win the prize.

The Gospel today gives us the second point of conversion: not to remain idle, but to labor assiduously in the Lord's vineyard. The first vine to be cultivated is our own soul. God comes to meet us with His grace, but He does not will to sanctify us without our cooperation. God in His love seeks out His scattered, idle children and gently reprimands them: "Why do you stand here idle?"

[...] In addition to the vineyard of our soul, we must also consider the vineyard of the Church, where so many souls are waiting to be won to Christ. No one can consider himself dispensed from thinking of the welfare of others. However lowly our place in the Mystical Body of Christ, we are all members of it; consequently, each of us must work for the welfare of others. It is possible for everyone to carry on an efficacious apostolate by example, prayer, and sacrifice. If, up to now, we have done but little, let us listen today to the words of our Lord: "Go you also into My vineyard." Let us go and embrace generously the work which the Lord offers us; let us consider nothing too difficult when there is a question of winning souls.

Divine Intimacy, ch. 77