



# PRESENTATION OF THE LORD

## OUR LADY OF MOUNT CARMEL BASILICA



Our Lady of Mt. Carmel - St. Anthony of Padua Parish  
343 Via Mt. Carmel • Youngstown, Ohio 44505



- Pastor:**  
Rev. Msgr. Michael Cariglio.....Ext. 103
- Church Phones:**  
Office & Rectory.....(330) 743-4144  
Religious Education .....743-3508  
Church Hall .....743-7740  
Lower Church Hall.....Ext. 114  
Fax .....743-1035
- Church Secretaries:**.....743-4144  
Office .....Ext. 100  
Mrs. Marie Ronyak.....Ext. 101  
Ms. Barbara McOwen.....Ext. 141  
Mrs. Cathy Zack .....Ext. 100
- Office Hours:** Mon. thru Fri. .. 8:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
- Permanent Deacons:**.....743-4144  
Mr. Anthony Palasca, Jr .....Ext. 142  
Mr. Mark Izzo..... 330-533-1857
- Director of Music:**.....743-4144  
Mr. Craig Ziobert..... (330) 770-6504
- Director of Religious Education:**  
Mrs. Therese Ivanisin..... Ext. 121  
olmcTherese@gmail.com or 330-743-3508  
Youth Ministry Coordinator, Melissa Varso. Ext. 122  
olmcMelissa@gmail.com
- Church Caterer:**.....743-7740  
Mr. Louis Fusillo..... Ext. 131  
or 759-4010 (H)
- Parish Council Chairperson:**.....743-4144  
Mr. Louis Fusillo..... Ext. 143
- Business Manager/Accountant:**  
Mr. John Didek, Jr..... Ext. 100
- Sunday Masses:**  
Saturday Evening.....5:00 p.m.  
Sunday.....9:00 a.m., 11:00 a.m.
- Weekday Mass:**.....Daily at 12:00 noon
- Baptisms:** Saturday after the 5:00 p.m. Mass  
and Sunday after the 11:00 a.m. Mass.
- Sacrament of Penance:** Saturday 11:00 - 11:30 a.m.  
or by personal request.
- Weddings:** Please schedule marriage at least 6 months  
in advance.
- E-mail:** olmc343@aol.com
- Website:** www.ladymtcarmel.com

**MASSES FOR THE WEEK**

- Sat., Feb. 1:** *First Saturday*  
 12:00 p.m. Phyllis Greco by JoAnne Diana  
 5:00 p.m. James A. & Grace F. Orlando by Family
- Sun., Feb. 2:** *The Presentation of the Lord*  
 9:00 a.m. Beatrice & Florinda Massaro by Mary Ann Ricciuti  
 11:00 a.m. John & Mary Bacha by John & Carol Amicone
- Mon., Feb. 3:** *St. Blaise, St. Ansgar*  
 12:00 noon Irene Mezzapeso (B) by Frank Mezzapeso
- Tues., Feb. 4:**  
 12:00 noon Violetta Lettiri by cousin, Marisa Riccottilli
- Weds., Feb. 5:** *Saint Agatha*  
 11:00 a.m. Nick & Bryan Viray (A) by Family
- Thurs., Feb. 6:** *St. Paul Miki and Companions*  
 12:00 noon Patti Arnoto (B) by Family
- Fri., Feb. 7:** *First Friday*  
 12:00 noon Dorothy & Paul Ricciuti by Mary Ann Ricciuti
- Sat., Feb. 8:** *St. Jerome Emiliani, St. Josephine Bakhita, Blessed Virgin Mary*  
 12:00 p.m. Francis & Lucille DeLuco by Diane  
 5:00 p.m. Adam Fiore Family by Norma & Mike
- Sun., Feb. 9:** *Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time*  
 9:00 a.m. James Pilolli by Vince Pilolli & Family  
 11:00 a.m. Antoinette Calcagni by Husband, Gene



*Gifts for God*

<b>Sunday, January 26 ( 242 envelopes)</b>	<b>\$8,373.00</b>
<b>St. Anthony Shrine/Novena</b>	<b>\$ 247.00</b>
<b>Initial Offering</b>	<b>\$ 521.00</b>
<b>Church Overseas Combined Collection</b>	<b>\$ 989.00</b>
<b>St. Vincent DePaul (January)</b>	<b>\$ 824.00</b>

**“Now, Master, you may  
let your servant go  
in peace, according  
to your word.”**



**WEEKEND ASSIGNMENTS (February 8/9)**

**Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist**

- 5:00 p.m. Ron DiBacco, Joseph Caruso, Jr.,  
Deacon Mark Izzo
- 9:00 a.m. Ramona DiSchiavo, Dominic Tedde,  
Deacon Mark Izzo
- 11:00 a.m. Stephanie Chimento, Tiffany  
Chimento, Chelsey Santucci, Phillip  
Pillin



**Lectors**

- 5:00 p.m. Atty. Matthew Giannini  
 9:00 a.m. Vince Pilolli  
 11:00 a.m. Candice LaRocca



**Altar Servers**

- 5:00 p.m. Gabriella, Howe, Gianna Howe,  
Jeffrey Howe
- 9:00 a.m. Gianna Mediati, Marco Pilolli, Santino  
Rivera-Ocasio
- 11:00 a.m. Scott Cross, Dominic Cross, Louis  
Cross

**IN INVITATION**

Yes, I will spend ONE HOUR WEEKLY with *Jesus*, present in **THE MOST BLESSED SACRAMENT.**

Please check the time you prefer:

- MORNING (6:00 a.m. to noon)
- AFTERNOON (12:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.)
- EVENING (6:00 p.m. to Midnight)
- NIGHT (midnight to 6:00 a.m.)



NAME \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

Yes, I would like to *promote* this most important prayer Apostolate.

**Cut & drop in collection basket or mail to Our Lady of Mount Carmel Basilica.**

**Call Maria Panozzo at 330-372-5141 or Jean at 330-758-3335 to schedule your time to be with Jesus. Come! Spend one hour per week with Jesus in Adoration, Praise and Thanksgiving for his many graces.**

**Hours needed:**

- Sat. 8 p.m. – 10 p.m.**  
**Mon. 9 a.m. – 10 a.m.**  
**Tues. 9 p.m. – 10 p.m.**  
**Sun. 2 p.m. – 3 p.m., 3 a.m. – 4 a.m. & 4 a.m. – 5 a.m.**  
**Thurs. 7 p.m. – 8 p.m.**  
**Fri. 3 p.m. – 4 p.m.**  
**Sat. 8 p.m. – 10 p.m., 9 p.m. – 10 p.m.**

## THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD

### PRAY FOR THE SICK

The families of the following parishioners have requested that we remember them in prayer: Martha Aliberti, Regina Altiero, Melinda Amon, Genevieve Angelides, Peter Angelides, Sandy Battaglia, Madelyn Brudis, Tina Bury, Zayne Bryce, Eugene Calcagni, Isabelle Corradi, Jeanni Pesa, Carmen, Kim Bowser, Marko Calko, Dominic Calko, Lori Capone, Michael (Cal) Calipare, Carl J. Carbon, Roseann Cencia, Joseph Cencia, Bethany Maytas, Anthony, Cathy Chimento, Joseph Chimento, Stephanie Chimento, Christopher Centofanti, Damian Chordas, Joseph R.Cioffi, Mary Rose Colucci, Johnny D., Ed Derek, Joanne Desko, Michelina DiVito, Greg Diorio, Grace Ducay, Angela Elmo, JoAnn Elmo, Roberta Elmo, Dolores Elston, Deacon Anthony Falasca, Jason, Monroe, Mara Frease, Ilona Gerson, Sebastian Green, Margie, Joseph Haus, Baby Henry, John, Reese, Lisa, Joshua, David, Carl Jr., Louise Faustino, Kaylee, JoAnn George, Emily Gerome, Rose Giampetro, Donald "Duke" Girardi, Dominic Greco, Josie Greco, Jennifer Greco, Michael & Carol Gromada, Carmella Guy, Claudia Hernandez, Sean Holden, Gail Hubbert, George Iati, Loretta Julian, Mark Julian, Peter Julian, Kerri, Glory & Family, Jeff Knorr, Dennis Kopnisky, Jackie Golden, Gerard Kopnisky, Hillary, William & Melinda Kopnisky, Agnes Kowis, Rocco Kovacs, Francine Kraiosky, John Kuzman, Jr., Leann P., Lenny & Cheryl, Lavonne, Lucille, Linda Maiorana, Baby Dominic Malachi, Bill Marcavish, Missy Marrie, John Mascardine, Jennifer McCon, Paul and Greg Medina, Jean Medina, Livia Marinelli, Ellen Monroe, Francisco Rivera-Ocasio, George Panno, Beverly Poidmore Pariza, Mary Pesa, Ronald Pesa, Phil Pillin, Sr. Brielle, Vincent, Paul III, Giovanna Pace, Isabel Pupino, Joseph Pizzola, Nicholas Poccia, Barbara Poghen, Charles Richards, Joseph Richards, Joseph Ridel, Chris Ritter, Rose Ruggieri, Marti Runyan, Mark Roberts, Ben Russo, Millie Santangelo, Patty Schuley, Carmel Scocca, Ellie Sullenberger, Chris Sultan, Helen Trimboli, Betty & Dennis VanSuch, Greg VanSuch, Jodi Walters, Kathleen Wienand, Anna Mae Williams, Lilah Dovie, Todd Zamy, Skevos Zimbillas, **Mary, help of the sick, pray for us! — Please let us know when person is well.**

### Prayer Petitions

It is in spirit of love, care, and support for one another that we invite you to place your prayer petitions into the Petition Box. The box and blank petition slips are available to you in the vestibule before each weekend Mass. The petitions are remembered during the Prayer of the Faithful and are brought forward during the Offertory Procession and placed at the foot of the Cross. At the conclusion of the Sunday Masses, the petitions are brought to the Little Flower Eucharistic Chapel where, throughout the week, members of the Apostolate for Perpetual Adoration unite their prayers with yours in the presence to our Eucharistic Lord. Let us unite our prayers with one another as we follow St. Paul's instruction to "pray without ceasing" and support one another through mutual prayer, solidarity, and love.

**REGISTRATION:** Members of the parish must be formally registered. If you are not receiving Our Lady of Mount Carmel envelopes, this means you are not registered. Call the rectory at 330-743-4144, Monday-Friday, 9 a.m.—3 p.m. and we will send you a registration form. **Families who have members of our church staying with them who are shut-ins or who are in nursing homes should include them as members of their household. For a change of address or telephone number, please call the rectory as soon as possible. Thank you.**



The Week Ahead

**Wednesday, February 5:**  
7:00 p.m. Vestibule Club Meeting/SJH

**Thursday, February 6:**  
10:00 a.m. Legion of Mary/St. JP II Ctr.  
7:00 p.m. Knights of Columbus Mtg./SJH

**Saturday, February 8:**  
9:30 a.m.—11:30 a.m. Reconciliation Prep—St.JP II Center  
Divine Will/St.JP II Center

1:00 p.m.-2:30 p.m.

**Sunday, February 9:**  
11:00 a.m.—4:00 p.m. OLMC Spaghetti Dinner & Pie Sale/SH

### **ST. ANTHONY LIGHT: February 2-8:**

In memory of JAMES A. & GRACE F. ORLANDO by Family

### **BLESSED SACRAMENT LIGHTS: February 2-8**

In memory of DAVE WEIKART by Norma and Mike Baca

### **SANCTUARY LIGHT: February 2-8**

In memory of WALTER P. GOOD by Legion of Maryfd

### **SACRED HEART LIGHT: February 2-8**

In memory of GUY EARL DERAMO by Wife, Virginia

### **OUR LADY OF MOUNT CARMEL: February 2-8**

In memory of PETER CHILA by Family

### **ETERNAL FLAME: Sunday, February 2:**

In memory of THOMAS PALLANTE by Parish Family

### **ETERNAL FLAME: Monday, February 3:**

In memory of WILLIAM A. SANTANGELO, SR. by Parish Family

### **ETERNAL FLAME: Tuesday, February 4:**

In memory of DAVID WEIKART by Parish Family

### **ETERNAL FLAME: Wednesday, February 5:**

In memory of PETER CHILA by Parish Family

### Church Overseas Combined Collection

Last weekend, the Diocese of Youngstown sponsored the Church Overseas Combined Collection for ministries to needy people. Thank you for your participation in this important collection. If you did not have the opportunity to respond last week, there is still time to contribute to this combined collection.

### WOMEN'S CATHOLIC COLLEGIATE SCHOLARSHIP

Could you use \$1000 toward your college costs? Are you a Catholic woman in good standing (3.0 GPA or higher) at your college or university? Will you be sophomore or junior (30-60 hours of completed coursework) for the academic year 2020/21? If you answered yes to the above questions please don't hesitate to inquire today. For additional information, call or text Marla at 330.727.4449 or call YSU Financial Aid and Scholarship Office at 330.941.3504. \*To be eligible for consideration, applications must be completed and postmarked/emailed by 11:59 p.m. March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2020. Thank you, Marla Dull, Catholic Collegiate Scholarship Chair.



**Birthdays for the week of Feb. 2-8**

Jerry Fullum, Peter Rassega, James Soltis, Amy Canterino, Anthony DeAscentis, Carmela Guy, Joseph Nudo, Thomas Sabo, Vincent Santangelo, Jr., Lori DeLisio, Luke Hagerman, Kathleen LaRocca, Jenna Tauro, Glen Folsom, Bridget Scarsella, Luke Wrataric, Joanne Caravella, Joseph DeToro, Gianna Mediati, Sarah Miller, Anthony Orlando, Vincent Pilolli, Kristin Rodriguez, Tricia Carano, Riley Collins, Charles Davis, Braedon Hall, Julie Hicken, Frances Klanica, Christine Madick, Nancy Mshar, Mildred Santangelo, Charles Altiero, Anthony Carano, Mary Ann DePizzo, Lizabeth Klase, Susanna Mondora, Faye Peachock.

**Sunday**

**Feast of the Presentation of the Lord**

Mal 3:1-4; Ps 24:7, 8, 9, 10; Heb 2:14-18;  
Lk 2:22-40 or Lk 2:22-32

Jesus, the King of glory, yet like us in all things, comes to his temple to be a light for all the nations.



**Presentation of the Lord**

This is one of the oldest feasts of Our Lady. Mary, wishing to obey the Law of Moses, had to go to Jerusalem forty days after the birth of Jesus to offer the prescribed sacrifice of a lamb or two doves. It was in the arms of His Blessed Mother that Jesus offered Himself to his Heavenly father as Mediator and Victim for the redemption of the world. Through, Mary, you, too, should dedicate yourself to God's service by doing His holy will at all times-in-joy as well as in sorrow. Offer the works and sufferings of your life to God through Mary's hands for the salvation of souls, especially your own.

*"Thy own soul a sword shall pierce" (Luke 2,35).*

**PRAYER**

Almighty, everlasting God, we humbly beg your Majesty that, as your only-begotten Son was this day presented in the temple in the form of our flesh,, so grant that we, too , may be presented to you with hearts made pure. Through the same Christ, our Lord. Amen.

**St. Anthony Shrine and Novena**

**\$40.00 GIFT**

In loving memory of MARY ANN PELLEGRINI by Cleto

**\$20.00 GIFT**

In memory of the Carnevale and Falabella Families  
by Ms. Angela Carnevale

In loving memory of ANN MASTROPIETRO  
by Dr. Cathy Mastropietro

In memory of THOMAS R. & VIRGINIA PALLANTE  
by Mr. and Mrs. John R. Johnston

**\$10.00 GIFT**

In memory of JOSEPH "PEPPER" CARUSO  
by Mrs. Joseph Caruso

In memory of DAVE WEIKART  
by Al & Phyllis DeChurch

Mrs. Grace Ducay

Mr. and Mrs. Ronald G. DiBacco

Mr. and Mrs. William D. DiFrangia



**YSU Center for Italian American Studies**

cordially invites you to our Inaugural  
**Carnevale di Venezia**

**Saturday, February 22, 2020 at Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Basilica, Youngstown, Ohio. Cocktail Attire, Masks to be provided. Cost: \$50.00 pp. Gondola Sponsor includes 2 reservations, \$250, Murano sponsor Level includes 4 reservations \$500, San Marco Basilica Sponsor Level \$1,000 includes 6 reservations. Reservations due by February 10th. Entertainment will include John Reese Project, strolling entertainment—jugglers, magicians, and accordion player. Venetian style carnevale/mardi gras with traditional Italian menu, and guests will be provided masks or can make/bring their own. All proceeds benefit YSU Center for Italian American Studies.**

**St. Rose School now accepting new students Grades K-8, 2020-2021 School Year**

**— To register please call the school office at 330-545-1163 to schedule an appointment. St. Rose is an Ed-Choice Provider School, busing available from Youngstown, Liberty, Girard, Hubbard and Mathews. St. Rose will be hosting a Kindergarten Round-up, Friday, February 7, from 9-10:30 a.m. Parents and [potential] kindergarten students are invited to spend time learning about our school while doing some fun activities. RSVP by February 5, 2020 at 330-545-1163.**





**CRAIG'S CORNER**  
A Note  
from our Music Director

One of the nicest things to hear is when someone compliments your personality, your work and efforts, your cooking, etc., or when someone says something like “isn’t your grandmother wonderful?” or something about a family member or friend of yours. With that in mind, put yourself in the shoes of Joseph and Mary in today’s Gospel. Simeon and Anna sing the praises of the Christ child who is being presented in the temple by His parents as was the custom of the day.

Simeon prays to God (in a canticle we sing as a part of the Liturgy at the opening of the Masses this weekend) stating that now that he has seen Christ, he can go in peace “for my eyes have seen your salvation, which you prepared in the sight of all the peoples: a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and glory for your people Israel,” then goes on to tell Mary, “Behold, this child is destined for the fall and rise of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be contradicted --and you yourself a sword will pierce-- so that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed.” Luke even tells us in his account that Mary and Joseph were amazed at what was said about their son.

A main theme in this weekend’s feast is that of light. We hear about Christ being the light to the Gentiles in Simeon’s canticle. The choir anthem this weekend, “Let all Mortal Flesh Keep Silence” denotes this theme well as the text centers on Christ being the light of light descending to us. But no greater hymn in my mind captures today’s feast more than our offertory hymn, “Sing of Mary.” The hymn blends this feast with what we have been celebrating during our winter Sundays of Ordinary Time. We sing of Mary and her Son who will go forth from her side to preach, to teach, to heal and suffer. This is the Son who, as we hear at the end of Luke’s account in the Presentation gospel today, “they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon him. This Sunday, 40 days after our celebration of Christmas, we remember what we celebrated just over a month ago of the incarnation of Christ, while realizing now just a few weeks away from the start of the Lenten season, that our minds must always bring focus on Easter – the central celebration of our faith.

We are reminded of this as we sing our communion hymn “One Communion of Love.” It blends the theme of light with remembering the sacrifice Jesus came down to earth to accomplish. We are walking in the light of our faith in one communion of love, remembering that the Eucharist is the gift which allows us to partake in God’s glory, manifest to us at Christmas, on the road to Easter.

This feast, called Candlemas, while it takes place in Ordinary Time, closes out the Traditional Christmas season in the ancient Church. Pastoral music is common for Christmas celebrations in many classical organ pieces, so this weekend’s pastorate during the Blessing of the Throats is a movement of a melody in thirds over a drone bass, recalling the Christmas music of pifferari, players of the traditional Italian bagpipe (zampogna) and reed pipe (piffero).

We now are encouraged to bring the light we have received in Christmas with the decent of Christ to us, and of the blessed candles, we go forth to continue our Liturgical Year to walk in the footsteps of Christ as we continue on the road towards Easter.

**Instrumental Music Selections for February 1-2: Feast of the Presentation of the Lord**

Prelude: Improvisation on *Picardy* – Charles Callahan

Postlude: Sonata No. 1 in D Minor, II: Pastorale – Félix-Alexandre Guilmant

**DAILY MORNING OFFERING PRAYER**

Jesus, through the Immaculate Heart of Mary. I offer you my prayers, works, joys, and sufferings of this day in union with the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass throughout the world. I offer them for all the intentions of your Sacred Heart: the salvation of souls, reparation for sin, and the reunion of all Christians. I offer them for the intentions of our bishops and of all Apostles of Prayer, and in particular for those recommended by our Holy Father this month.

**Prayer Intentions for February.**

**Listen to the Migrants’ Cries.** We pray that the cries of our migrant brothers and sisters, victims of criminal trafficking, may be heard and considered.



**Pies-Pies-Pies—St. Monica Guild** will be hosting their annual Pie Sale at the **February 9th, 2020 Spaghetti Dinner.** Parishioners wishing to bake pies are welcome to do so and all donations are greatly appreciated. Please drop off pies by 9:30 a.m. in the Social Hall. For more information, call Beverly Pondillo at 330-550-9963 or Debbie Chufo at 330-534-0318.



**Please join us, next Sunday February 9, 2020**  
**Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Basilica Spaghetti Dinner**  
11:00 a.m.—4:00 p.m. in the Social Hall. (St. Monica is sponsor a Pie Sale during the Spaghetti Dinner Hours.)  
Menu: spaghetti, meatballs, salad, rolls, butter, cake and coffee (beverages available for purchase) Adults: \$7.50, Children (ages 6-10) \$5.00, Children 5 and under—free, Take out containers available for purchase.

**REMEMBER US LAST:**

When you are preparing your will and estate plan remember those closest to you...spouse, family members and loved ones. Then remember Our Lady of Mount Carmel Basilica with a residual gift that defines your Legacy of Faith as a member of our parish community. Please call 330-744-8451, ext. 325 for information.

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**THIS WEEKEND IS THE BIG Souper Bowl Collection**

Following all Masses this weekend we are collecting monetary donations or cans of soup.

All contributions are donated to our local St. Vincent DePaul Food Pantry. Thank you for your prayers and generosity.

Watch for the results next week.

Follow the National Results  
[www.souperbowl.org](http://www.souperbowl.org)



Everyone is a winner when  
we fight hunger.



**Prayer to St. Blaise**

Dear bishop and lover of souls,  
you willingly bore heavy crosses  
in faithful imitation of Jesus.  
Similarly, with childlike  
compassion, you cured many  
suffers. Then after undergoing  
horrible torture, you died as a  
martyr for Christ. Obtain a cure  
for these ails **(name your sickness)**  
If this is agreeable to God.



**The LIGHT of FAITH and FAMILY**

**Sunday, February 23, 2020**

9th—12th grade will be our Lectors & Gift bearers for the 9am Mass

**Topic** Conversion      **Speaker** Father Veltri

Families continue to work with your Gospelweeklies. Resources and teaching guides are located on the following website: [www.pflaumweeklies.com](http://www.pflaumweeklies.com) tab parents and catechist.

**Future dates:**

March 1st, March 22nd, April 3rd Communal Penance Service.  
April 5th begins Holy Week.

**First Reconciliation Preparation**



Reconciliation will be celebrated Sunday, February 9th following the 11am Mass. Please keep the youth and their families in prayer as the experience the mercy of God.

**\*\*\*Saturday, February 8th, 9:30am to 11:30am parent(s) and their child will meet in the JP II Center.**

**Narrative Stations April 3, 2020**

7th & 8th grade students of OLMC~STA, public and Catholic Schools students are invited to participate in the Narrative Stations. Come and be a part of a moving event, that reminds us through the Stations of the Cross, all of what Christ has endured for us. **First practice begins Sunday, February 2nd 10:10a-11:45am in classrooms.** Questions call Mrs. Ivanisin.



**Contact Information for Faith Formation**

330-743-3508 [www.olmcsta.com](http://www.olmcsta.com) FAX: 330-743-1035  
(Out of the office on Monday)

**Director: Therese M. Ivanisin / Mrs. I**  
[OLMCTherese@gmail.com](mailto:OLMCTherese@gmail.com) ext 121

**Coordinator of Youth Ministry: Melissa Varso**  
[OLMCMelissa@gmail.com](mailto:OLMCMelissa@gmail.com) ext 122

**Youth Ministry Team:**  
Nick Capone & Bobby Mangiarelli

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# Good News

INSPIRATION FOR DAILY LIFE

## The Presentation of the Lord

Malachi 3:1-4  
Ps 24:7-10  
Hebrews 2:14-18  
Luke 2:22-40

**Monday February 3**  
2 Sam 15:13-14,30;16:5-13  
Ps 3:(8a)2-7  
Mark 5:1-20

**Tuesday February 4**  
2 Samuel 18:9-10,14b,  
24-25a,30--19:3  
Ps 86:1-6  
Mark 5:21-43

**Wednesday February 5**  
**St. Agatha**  
2 Samuel 24:2,9-17  
Ps 32:1-2,5-7  
Mark 6:1-6

**Thursday February 6**  
**Sts. Paul Miki & Companions**  
1 Kings 2:1-4,10-12  
1 Chronicles 29:10-12  
Mark 6:7-13

**Friday February 7**  
Sirach 47:2-11  
Ps 18:31,47,50,51  
Mark 6:14-29

**Saturday February 8**  
1 Kings 3:4-13  
Ps 119:9-14  
Mark 6:30-34

Today we recall the consecration of the baby Jesus by Joseph and Mary. Because the infant was consecrated to God, his whole life and even his death were consecrated to God – for our sake.

Have you consecrated your life to God?

What about consecrating your death to God, too? Even your dying breath can serve God if you ask him to give you the opportunity. What kind of a testimony will your passage from earth to heaven be for those you leave behind?

At your baptism, you were reborn into the life, death and resurrection of Jesus, but have you consciously consecrated your life to him? This is a daily decision, even a moment-by-moment renewal of the decision, not just a one-time baptismal ceremony.

This means being in a constant state of prayer, no matter how busy we are.

It means tuning to God and acting on faith instead of reacting to circumstances.

It means getting in touch with God in our hearts and not letting our heads fool us into thinking we're living on the heart-level when we're not.



It means identifying what we are attached to in this world, then letting go so that we can become attached only to God.

It means staying spiritually awake. It means deliberately growing in holiness each and every day.

It means continually asking ourselves, in each and every situation that occurs, "Am I experiencing God's love right now? If not, what must I do to unite myself to his love? Am I living in his love right now by giving it to others, even though it might be very difficult to do? If not, I choose to force myself to behave lovingly."

### Reflect & Discuss:

1. A prayer: "Lord Jesus, help me to live the consecrated life. Holy Spirit, make me aware of the times I fail to do this and show me how to re-consecrate my life to You. Loving Father, accept my desire to be consecrated to You, and help me to immerse myself more fully into Your generous love for me."
2. Have you consecrated your life to God? Describe what that decision was like. Why did you do it? What changed?
3. How does consecrating our lives to God help us grow spiritually? What are some of the struggles we face in trying to live out our consecration?

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