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Psalm — The Lord is my light and my salvation (Psalm 27).

Second Reading — Paul exhorts the believers at Corinth: As there is one Christ, so too must there be no divisions among you (ICorinthians 1:10-13, 17).

Gospel — After calling his first disciples, Jesus goes throughout Galilee (Matthew 4:12-23 [12-17]).

be stouthearted, and wait for the LORD.



You have brought them abundant joy and great rejoicing.

From the desk of Father Jerry



The Feast of the Presentation of the Lord (next Sunday, 2/1/2020) takes place 40 days after Christmas and within it, we find almost a second Epiphany, or Revelation of God. A few weeks ago we pondered the identity of this child who was honored by the magi as the divine King revealed by a star. Today, we greet Christ as Anna and Simeon greeted the infant Jesus in the temple, by claiming Him as our Savior, our Consolation, our Light, our Joy. Sometimes this feast is referred to as "Candlemas," due to the tradition of the faithful bringing candles to be blessed that will be used throughout the coming year. Imagine the depth of symbolism for the people of yesteryear who brought their source of light in the darkness (candles) to be blessed as a reminder of the Light that illuminates all darkness (cf John 8:12).

Abortion and Education: our United States Supreme Court, in the infamous Roe verses Wade case, voted to legalize abortion on January 22, 1973. This day, "which will live in infamy," must be a day in which we re-double our efforts and be relentless in educating and communicating reconciliation for women as well as men. Today we continue to be advocates for life by passionately praying and assertively educating. We believe that once the egg and sperm have united to form that zygote, that life is sacred and must be protected. In addition to fervent prayer, we back up our belief by being pro-active. Please pray for our lawmakers to enact new laws that protect the unborn. May we not simply be pro-birth, but pro-life offering help and support in raising a child. Abortion is a multi-layered social challenge. What do we offer a mother of a child who reaches Day One of Life?

Catholic Schools Week (Jan. 26—Feb. 1): our theme this year is "Living in Harmony with God's Creation". Catholic Schools are a gift to our nation: based on the average public school per pupil cost of \$11,841, Catholic schools provide \$21 million in savings each year for our nation. In our Catholic Schools, students benefit all year long from the religious guidance, prayers, and support parishes provide. The importance of service to others and to one's parish is emphasized. Thanks to Alexis and Alizabeth, our Catholic School parishioners, who are involved in serving as liturgical ministers at Mass.

January Birthdays Janu 20--Janet Clark Janu 22-Von Williams Feb 25--Louise Johnson Feb 28--Frank Adams Let 30--Pam Wilson February Birthdays Our 2--Nancy Bumm Me: Sr.,

3--Jacques Williams (Sr.)

6--Philip Moorman



please consider it? It costs nothing and we receive the benefits.

Thank you for your support.

Mass Intentions
January 19Alicia Ottofy
January 26Ann Denise Ward
February 2Ray McDaniel
February 9Mary Calhoun
Let us remember to pray for those who have recently died or those in the process of dying. Remember to pray for the souls in purgato- ry, especially for those who have no one to pray for them.

Our thoughts and prayers are with: the sick: Charlene Meadows, Frank and Gloria Adams, Philip Moorman, Sr., Joyce Moorman, Carol Hatchett, Martha Kramer, Ruth Coble, Larry Allen, Camilla Greer, Jim Moorman, Louise Johnson, Phillip Moorman, Jr. If you know of anyone seriously ill who is in need of prayer or visitation, please notify the office.

Please remember our home-bound: Ruth Coble who is at Heritage Park . Georgia Holland who has moved to St. Louis stays in touch with BSC. A phone call or a card can cheer them up.

Thank you for your contributions to the Diocesan Response Fund. Your pledges have met our target. Please continue to pay your pledge amount. We have benefited from this fund this year by having men from St. Benedict helping us weekly.

Dave Ramsey Financial Peace University St. Pius X Catholic Church will be offering the Dave Ramsey Financial Peace University Class starting on Sunday, January 19, 2020 at 5:30 pm in the Resource Room at St. Pius X. There will be nine consecutive classes on Sunday nights with free babysitting available. For more information, contact Gary Estes at 270- 314-4419.

Coming Events CALENDAR

Blessed Sacrament Chapel Jan. 28--McDonald's Share Night 4-7 Feb. 2--Parish Meeting after Mass Candle Blessing Feb. 16--Ladies of Wisdom Tea Feb. 29--Italian Dinner

Diocesan Community Happenings

Jan. 25--Scripture Weekend Church Unity Week Prayer Service 7 PM Jan 31-Feb 2 Married Couples Retreat



Jan. 19--\$1229.11 Weekly budget--\$933 MTD collection--\$2900.11 MTD budget--\$2799 YTD collection--\$25,737.72

YTD budget \$27,057

Candles--\$6

May each of us give according to what the Lord has blessed us with.



Discipleship--We Are Called

Come after me, and I will make you fishers of men." Jesus called Peter and Andrew-regular, everyday people going about their daily lives—to be His disciples. Wasn't their trust in the Lord incredible? "At once they left their nets and followed him." Jesus calls us, too, as we go about our daily lives; and we are all called, not just a few. Regardless of our job, status in the community, bank account balance, accomplishments, or education, we are called to be a part of His plan. Like the disciples, we aren't called because of who we are, but because of how Jesus can work through us. Time spent in prayer can help us hear Jesus' call in our daily lives, to trust and to follow Him. Prayer can help us discern how to offer our talents and gifts to serve our parish and greater community. What "nets" can we cast aside? How is Jesus calling us today?

Christian Unity: January 18-25, 2020 is the annual observance of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, whose theme chosen for 2020 is "They Showed Us Unusual Kindness" *(Acts 28:2)*. Throughout 2020, join Christians everywhere in praying "that they may all be one" joining our prayer with that of the Lord Jesus Christ. For more information go to: www.geii.org. There will be a prayer service at 7:00pm on Sunday, January 26, 2020, here at the Cathedral, to pray for unity. A meal will be served at 5:30pm in the Community Center.

Next Sunday Candle Mass Day, there will be a blessing of candles for you to take home.

Readings of the Week

Monday:	2 Sm 5:1-7, 10; Ps 89:20-22, 25-26; Mk 3:22-30
Tuesday:	2 Sm 6:12b-15, 17-19; Ps 24: 7-10; Mk 3:31-35
Wednesday:	2 Sm 7:4-17; Ps 89:4-5, 27-30; Mk 4:1-20
Thursday:	2 Sm 7:18-19, 24-29; Ps 132: 1-5, 11-14; Mk 4:21-25
Friday:	2 Sm 11:1-4a, 5-10a, 13-17; Ps 51:3-7, 10-11; Mk 4:26-34
Saturday:	2 Sm 12:1-7a, 10-17; Ps 51:12- 17; Mk 4:35-41
Sunday:	Mal 3:1-4; Ps 24:7-10; Heb 2:14-18; Lk 2:22-40

SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCE

Sunday:	Third Sunday in Ordinary Time; Sunday of the Word of God; Catholic Schools Week
Monday:	St. Angela Merici
Tuesday:	St. Thomas Aquinas
Friday:	St. John Bosco
Saturday:	Blessed Virgin Mary; First Saturday

CARRY THE LOAD

The chief thing is to take the burden on one's shoulders. As you press forward, it soon shakes down and the load is evenly distributed.

SEEKING THE LIGHT

In today's readings we find ourselves being drawn more deeply into relationship with Jesus. We are getting to know more about him as we see how he struggles with the news of his cousin John's arrest. His first response is to withdraw, to leave Nazareth and go to Capernaum. There he is perhaps both consoled and challenged by the words of Isaiah that Matthew guotes: "the people who sit in darkness have seen a great light, / on those dwelling in a land overshadowed by death / light has arisen" (Matthew 4:16). Jesus contemplates his cousin's death, perhaps his own death, and he seeks the light. Maybe it is these words of Isaiah that move Jesus out of his withdrawal and into action. He begins to preach, teach, cure disease and illness,

Hats off/ Thank you

A special thank-you to Kathi Skidd who prepared Jacques Williams III for his 1st Reconciliation and is preparing him for his First Communion this spring. She also teaches Lad Ottofy each week.

HEART

In prayer it is better to have a heart without words than words without a heart. –John Bunyan





<u>Feb. 2:</u>	Layson Brooks
	Marsha Allen
<u>Feb. 9</u> :	Connie Clary
	Austin Gough
	Eucharistic Ministers
<u>Feb. 2:</u>	Greg Gough
	Yvonne Hatchett
	Rita Moorman
<u>Feb. 9:</u>	Cindy Clark
	Misty Sanford
	Lori Robertson
	Ushers/Offertory
<u>Feb. 2</u> :	Vicki Leonard
	Frank Fulton
<u>Feb. 9:</u>	Herbert Millay
	Yvonne Mundy
Tha	nk you for your ministry!

Note of Thanks I would like to thank all of you who made a contribution of any kind to our Christmas project for the Glenmary Missions. God bless you for your generosity. Gloria Adams

KINDNESS

Better to be kind at home than to burn incense in a distant place.

-Chinese proverb

Snowman's Suggestions for a Happy Life

- We can go uphill or downhill-our choice
- Slopes can be slippery: Maintain balance
- It often takes a whole lotta shoveling to clear a workable path
- Your smile is your best accessory (but a sazzy new hat is always good.)
- Forgive your meltdowns and move on
- We are each created by a Greater Hand: no matter what you might think, you are Uniquely and Beautifully made!

--Theresa Sanders

Please remember in your prayers Beverly Chilton who died this past week. Due to health issues the last couple years, she has not been able to attend Mass but she prayed for us and kept up on what was happening at Blessed Sacrament, frequenting asking about BSC. Our sympathy especially to her brother, Burnell Hamilton.

A huge thank you to everyone who attended services, provided food, and helped to serve it.

TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITION

January 27

SAINT ANGELA MERICI (c. 1474-1540)

Born in Northern Italy, orphaned in childhood, Angela Merici faced a society in which education was largely the privilege of wealthy young men and based primarily in monastic schools. This reality shaped Angela's insightful conviction that society's disorder was caused by disorder in the home, and a lack of model Christian mothers the result of neglecting the education of young women. Transform the Christian family by placing an educated wife and mother at its heart, Angela believed, and the whole world would be renewed in Christ! So she gathered a small group of unmarried women, many of them Franciscan Tertiaries (lay affiliates) like herself, and set out to educate poor girls, free of charge, in their homes. She and her band of teachers called themselves companions, pioneering a new form of non-cloistered religious life for women, bearing witness to evangelical simplicity in the midst of the world, not as a formal "order" but as the Company (*compagnia*) of Saint Ursula. Known today as the Ursulines, Angela Merici's spiritual daughters continue serving the Church and society in a rich diversity of ministries.

Reflections To Nurture Your Missionary Heart

"John the Baptist saw Jesus coming toward him and said, 'Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world. He is the one of whom I said, *A man is coming after me who ranks ahead of me because He existed before me*" (John 1:29-30).

Jesus Christ came among us to save us from sin that destroys life and leads to eternal death. The baptism that He offers transforms us because we are meant to be like Him. Each of us is called to be a true child of God. And each of us is given a mission – to spread the Good News to others so that they, too, will share in His eternal life. Indeed, the people who wrote our readings for today, Isaiah, Paul, John the Evangelist, as well as John the Baptist, were all commissioned in a special way to fulfill the will of God and introduce our Savior to the world. Through all we say and do, we have the opportunity of helping others encounter Christ. Every person, every soul is uniquely created by God to be His precious adopted son or daughter. And it is a great gift for us to be able to share this everlasting love with others.

Church Mice

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