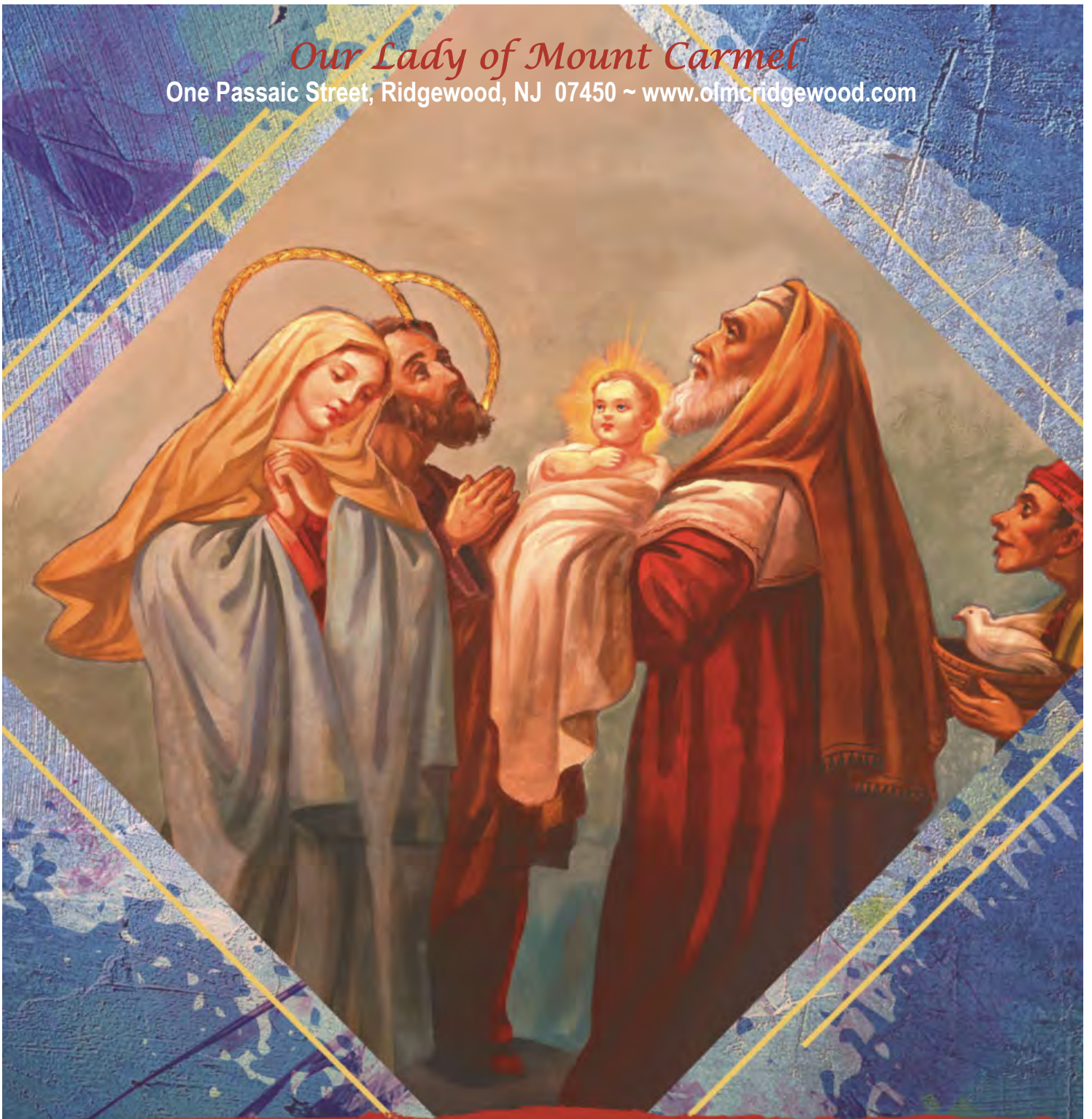


Our Lady of Mount Carmel

One Passaic Street, Ridgewood, NJ 07450 ~ www.olmcridgewood.com



THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD

“Behold, this child is destined for the
fall and rise of many in Israel.” - Lk 2:34

PARISH DIRECTORY
www.olmcridgewood.com

Parish Office: 1 Passaic Street, Ridgewood, NJ 07450-4309
Phone: 201.444.2000 Fax: 201.444.2002

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Dear Friends,

This is the 1st weekend in February. Have you noticed anything different? For years, if not decades, this would have been **Pledge Weekend** for the **Annual Appeal**. For some reason, and I don't have a clue why, Pledge Sunday has been pushed back to the 1st weekend in March. Maybe they're trying to tie it into the "sacrificial giving" theme of Lent which begins on 3/5. Following the timetable set by the Archdiocese, we will conduct **Pledge Weekend** on that weekend in March.

But, in fact, whatever the reason for the change in schedule, the **Appeal** has already begun, even in a low-key manner. You should have already received a letter from the Cardinal and you will receive a letter from me sometime in the week ahead. From those materials you have already received, I want to make a few points. The campaign funds what the Church is supposed to be about. First and foremost the Church must be about *Proclaiming the Gospel*, announcing to the world it is loved by Jesus Christ. While this is the responsibility of every baptized Catholic, there is a special place for those called to the priestly ministry and so *Forming Future Priests* must be a part of the Church's work, as well as *Supporting Retired Clergy*, those who have labored long and hard in the vineyard (myself, I hope). *Passing on the Faith* to future generations is also an essential work of the Church and living Jesus' love, in concrete ways drives the Church's mission in *Caring for the Poor and the Vulnerable*. This last mission of the Church is so important that it receives the largest portion of the funds raised through the Appeal.

I could go on with all the works funded through the **Annual Appeal** but I'll leave it at that for now. I truly believe the case statement, all that I have shared and all that's represented in the brochure speak to the strength of the Appeal and the fact that it represents the Church's outreach to those in need right here, among us, in our own backyard, brothers and sisters right around the corner from us. And for those who wonder whether the funds are actually going to these works, I quote the Cardinal from the Annual Appeal Brochure, "I humbly ask for your support. All funds collected through the Annual Appeal support the programs and ministries designated in this campaign and detailed here." While the appeal might not be as heart-wrenching as other appeals, as one for the fire victims in California, in the long run it is just as critical to the future of our faith in this area.

What is my goal? Obviously to raise more funds, both for these causes and for ourselves, through the long standing rebate policy of the Archdiocese. 50% of all funds over the parish goal and collected by December 31, 2025 will be given back to the parish. Thanks to the generous participation of so many in the parish, when the rebate checks are remitted, sometime in February, the parish should receive somewhere around \$110,000 from last

year's campaign. But **participation** is the key word. After all these years, I think from the beginning of my pastorate, almost 28 years ago, you know what my principle goal has always been, year in and year out—to consistently increase the number of parish “households” involved in this support—to see the number of donors from Mount Carmel increase. My hope last year was to reach 500 donor households. Thanks to your response, the parish jumped from 490 households to 521. Thanks to all those households for the continued support you give and thanks to the 31 new households who joined us. Maybe hoping too much, could we possibly reach 550 households this year? Please help us in that quest. As we look around our country and the world, wars, conflicts, strife and division are everywhere. Couldn't our nation and the world be a better place? *Proclaiming the Gospel* might just be a place to start.

If you received the materials in the mail, may I ask that you not wait until that first weekend in March. I have already made my pledge and there's nothing wrong with being “ahead of the game.” I did notice (as they did last year) that the pre-printed material suggests a specific increase in the pledge amount. I must admit, I gave in and did increase my pledge. Within your own circumstances, if you can do that, I ask you to think and pray about it. But most of all, I'm asking—if you have given in the past, please do so again, and now, and don't wait for **Pledge Weekend**. Please remember to indicate our parish to take advantage of the rebate.

More to come when **Pledge Weekend** comes around.

Grace and Peace,
Fr. Ron

STEWARDSHIP

“Mary and Joseph took Jesus up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord, just as it is written in the law of the Lord, Every male that opens the womb shall be consecrated to the Lord.” This consecration, described in today's Gospel, was in thanksgiving for this birth of every first-born, as a gift from God. Do we give thanks to God for His gifts to us? The Christ Steward does, in giving gifts of Time, Talent and Treasure. Should we not follow their example and the example of Mary and Joseph?

The parish Stewardship of Treasure last week was \$14,469. God bless those who generously return their material gifts to the Lord in support of the work of His Kingdom. Even though it's too late to make a New Year's Resolution, you can decide at any time to join the growing numbers who use electronic giving as their way to support the parish. Why not give it a try?



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the mission of this parish
all year long.



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Scan this QR Code, or call 877.316.0260

INSPIRE: Young Adult Ministry Hosting

Marriage Panel

Join us for a panel discussion and Q & A
with married couples
sharing their personal experiences.



Friday, February 7, 2025—7:30PM
52 Passaic St., Lower Level of the School Bldg.
(enter through the rear door)



The **Order of Christian Initiation of Adults** is the process to guide an inquirer towards a personal relationship with Jesus Christ through the sacraments that are

celebrated in the Catholic Church during Easter. The OCIA journey of faith begins when the inquirer is ready to listen to the teachings of the Catechism of the Catholic Church to prepare his or her heart and mind to the truth.

There are three types of inquirers: 1) **Catholics**—Adults who are seeking to receive Confirmation and, in certain cases, also the Holy Eucharist; 2) **Baptized Christians**—Adults who received their baptisms from Christian denominations recognized by the Catholic Church. They are seeking to be in full communion in the Catholic Church by receiving Confirmation and the Holy Eucharist; and 3) **Non-Baptized**—Adults who have not received baptism that is recognized by the Catholic Church. They are seeking to be fully initiated into the Catholic Church by receiving Baptism, Confirmation, and the Holy Eucharist in the Easter Vigil.

An OCIA team of catechists leads the Catholic and Baptized Christians known as “candidates” and the Non-Baptized known as “catechumens” through the OCIA process. The sacraments are administered by a bishop or a designated priest.

Our Lady of Mount Carmel is blessed to have eleven candidates and two catechumens for Easter 2025. The candidates are: *Jeffrey Garip; Jessica Garro; Annemarie Hayden; Nastassja Liddie; Christopher Lopez; Ann Macadangdang; Angela Melo; Caroline Merejo; Caroline Mora; Jennifer Losquardo; and, Nicole Nelson.* The catechumens are: *Dariann Zorilla; Peter Choe.*

Msgr. Ron celebrated a welcome Mass for these candidates and catechumens on Sunday, January 26, 2025, at the 11:00AM Mass. The parish community is invited to pray for this Easter 2025 group as they journey to receive their sacraments.



You can support OLMC via Venmo!

Find us under “Charities” @olmcridgewoodnj
or scan the QR code here.

THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD



Religious Education When Families Gather—February Sessions

Sunday, February 2nd
10:30AM-11:45AM or 12:00NN-1:15PM—Parish Center

Monday, Feb 3rd
5:00PM-6:15PM or 7:00PM-8:15PM—Parish Center

Monday, Feb 24th—Parents Only Session
7:00PM-8:00PM—Parish Center

Summer Religious Education Program—2025

This program is open to students entering grades 1-6 in September. The program dates are Friday, June 20 and Monday-Friday, June 23 through Friday, June 27—9:30AM to 1:00 PM weekdays.

REQUIRED SUMMER PROGRAM PARENT INFORMATION MEETING

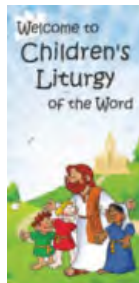
If you would like your child to participate in the summer religious education program, **you must attend one of the two parent meetings listed below.**

Wednesday, February 12th—7:30 PM—Parish Center
Thursday, February 20th—9:30AM—Parish Center

Children's Liturgy of the Word Assistants Needed Sundays, 9:30AM Mass

Parents/grandparents, bring your little ones (Pre-K through Grade 3) to this Mass. After Opening Prayer, the children are invited up to the altar and led to Our Lady's Chapel where they hear the Sunday scripture readings in a simpler language. The children return to the church before the Offertory. The kids (and parents) are so grateful. We do Children's Liturgy every Sunday.

Please consider volunteering to assist our Children's Liturgy leaders. A helping hand is all we need! The more volunteers we have, the less time people need to commit! If you work during the week, this ministry is a perfect opportunity for you to get involved. Our goal is to have the children of our parish enjoy coming to Mass and learn about God's love for them.



For more information and to volunteer, contact:
Angela Krempel at a_krempel@hotmail.com



MARRIAGE ENRICHMENT & PREPARATION

Thursday Evenings Through April 3rd
8-9PM—Lower Level of the School Bldg.
Retreat Saturday, April 5

This course is open to all couples—both those who are already married and those who are preparing for marriage.

For more information or to register,
contact Rob & Stephanie Budelman
robertsteph@me.com, 917.543.8261

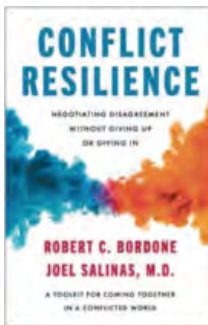
Having Difficult Conversations: Tools for Speaking with Those We Love and Those We (Sometimes) Don't

As Christians we are called to act with charity toward all. But when we have strong disagreements with each other, charity often yields to fractious fighting or unhealthy avoidance, neither of which build positive relationships or advance God's reign. As Catholic Christians, how can we be true to ourselves, to others, and to our relationships through our disagreements?



In this talk, Bob Bordone, author of the upcoming book *Conflict Resilience: Negotiating Disagreement Without Giving Up or Giving In*, will introduce the concept of *conflict resilience* and offer strategies for how to navigate our most difficult conversations at home, work, church, and school.

Bob is Senior Fellow at Harvard Law School, the Founder of Harvard Law School's Negotiation and Mediation Clinical Program, and the founder of the Cambridge Negotiation Institute. He is an active member of the Pastoral Council at the Paulist Center in Boston, MA and also serves on the Advisory Committee of the Paulist Fathers National Initiative on Toxic Polarization and on the Catholic Common Ground Initiative. He is originally from Washington Township, NJ and is a graduate of Bergen Catholic High School.



Speaking Dates

Tuesday, February 4th 7:00-9:00 PM (starts with 30 min. social) @ **Church of the Presentation Community Room, Upper Saddle River**

Wednesday, February 5th 7:00-9:00 PM
(starts with 30 min. social)

@ **Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Parish Center, Ridgewood**

Special session for mothers:

Wednesday, February 5th 9:15-11:00 AM

@ **Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Parish Center, Ridgewood**

RSVP not required, however, to be notified about when you can pick up a free copy of the speaker's new upcoming book, *Conflict Resilience: Negotiating Disagreement Without Giving Up or Giving In* sign-up via the QR Code. Books are given away on a first come basis (due out in March, 2025).



Jesus and Me Story Time This Coming Saturday February 8, 2025—10:30AM Parish Center Meeting Room

Bring your child, grandchild or Godchild to a fun, faith filled, story time for young children ages 2 1/2 to 5.

To register contact Adriana DeCandia
thedomesticchurch61@gmail.com
\$10 suggested donation per family



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Matthew 6:33

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Stop by the chapel at any time or better yet sign up for a Holy Hour once a week, every week. Jesus is truly the God of love, mercy and Divine Providence. Come and experience heavenly peace, joy and love that rejuvenates us for the whole week.

SCHEDULED ADORERS URGENTLY NEEDED

Tuesday: 12NN-1PM; Thursday: 10-11AM;

Fridays: 6-7PM; Saturdays: 5-6PM

Contact Cynthia—551.574.1063, cynthiabtorres@yahoo.com



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DRAWINGS BEGIN EARLY MARCH

**TICKETS ARE ALSO AVAILABLE IN THE MT. CARMEL RECTORY OFFICE
MONDAY-FRIDAY, 9AM-4PM**

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE ILL MEMBERS OF OUR PARISH

Joan Donegan Als, Andrea Aluisi, Bill Bartlett, Frederick Bruno, Mike Bucci, Charles Buckley, Kimberly Parsons Daub, Nick DiDonato, Maura Gillen Eidschun, Marie Evans, Kay & Bill Forster, Frank Gillen, Susan Hart-White, Joseph Hyon, Marc Johnson, Tom Keleher, Claudia LaFrance, Susan Lois, Campbell McArthur, Christine O'Brien, David Oswald, Margaret Peak, Mary Kathleen Range, Cathy Ricciuto, Francis Tedaro Ristor, Michael Runz, Nancy Steen, Don Strittmatter, Larry Switaj, Nickolas John Tedaro, Christina Volpe, Rochelle West, Rosemary Wright, Walter John Zelop, Jr.

Parishioners may call the Rectory with the name of a family member who is sick to have them included in our prayers.

THE WEEK AHEAD

Sun. Feb. 2	9:30AM Women's ISP (MR) 10:30AM When Families Gather (PC) 12:00NN When Families Gather (PC) 1:30PM OCIA (MR) 1:30PM Bell Choir (PCB) 2:00PM CYO Basketball (Gym) 4:00PM Spanish Apostolate (PCA) 7:30PM McHugh Confirmation Group (YCA)
Mon. Feb. 3	1:00PM Staff Meeting (MR) 4:30PM CYO Basketball (Gym) 5:00PM When Families Gather (PC) 7:00PM When Families Gather (PC) 7:30PM Men's Cornerstone (MR)
Tues. Feb. 4	9:30AM Grace Within Journal Group (SMR) 3:45PM Jr. High 7A (PC) 4:00PM Religious Ed Grades 1-6 (Gym) 5:00PM Choir Rehearsal (Church) 5:30PM CYO Basketball (Gym) 6:30PM OCIA (REC1) 7:00PM ChristLife Discovering Christ (PC) 7:00PM Neocatechumenal Way (NCW) 7:30PM Journey Parent Prayer Serv. (Chapel)
Wed. Feb. 5	9:15AM MOMs Monthly Meeting (PC) 3:30PM Women's ISP (SMR) 3:45PM Jr. High 7B (PC) 4:00PM WCST C of P Team Meeting (Lib) 4:30PM CYO Basketball (Gym) 7:00PM Neocatechumenal Way (NCW) 7:00PM Spanish Choir Reh'l (Church) 7:00PM Managing Conflicts Presentation (PC)
Thur. Feb. 6	10:30PM Sunday Liturgy Scripture Study (SMR) 3:30PM Jr. High Youth Group (Gym) 4:30PM CYO Basketball (Gym) 5:30PM NCW 3 rd Community (YCB) 7:00PM Small Christian Community (Library) 7:30PM WCST Team 24 (MR)
Fri. Feb. 7	9:00AM SALT (SMR) 10:30AM WCST Bible Study (Library) 4:30PM CYO Basketball (Gym) 7:30PM Inspire Young Adult (NCW)
Sat. Feb. 8	9:00AM CYO Basketball (Gym) 9:00AM Men's Basketball (Gym) 9:00AM AoOL Girls Basketball (Gym) 10:15AM First Communion Retreat (Church) 10:30AM Jesus & Me Story Time (MR) 6:00PM Neocatechumenal Way (PC)

SUPER BOWL LIX—FEBRUARY 9, 2025

Next weekend is "Super Bowl Sunday."
The last Mass on February 9 will be at 4:30PM.
Have fun watching the game!

PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR PARISHIONERS SERVING IN THE MILITARY:

Timothy Bombace, Aedan Cannon, Edgar Delgado,
Nick Haddad, Durkin McCarthy, John Morano,
James Nardelli, Robert Smith, Thomas Tesoriero

THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD



TODAY'S READINGS

Monday, Feb. 3 *Saint Blaise, Bishop and Martyr;
Saint Ansgar, Bishop*

+ **6:30AM** **Luis Poblete Vera**
req Leah Vera

+ **8:30AM** **Andrea Moynihan**
req Mary & Jim Judge

+ **12:00NN** **Matt Miller**
req Rosemary Miller

Tuesday, Feb. 4

+ **6:30AM** **Elizabeth O'Connor**
req The Calvetti Family

+ **8:30AM** **Robert Dinkelmeyer**
req Tim & Trina Bradley

+ **12:00NN** **Jose Arango Sarmiento**
req Myriam Valasco & Family

Wednesday, Feb. 5 *Saint Agatha, Virgin and Martyr*

+ **6:30AM** **Frank & Kay Reilly**
req Bob & Marge Reilly

8:30AM **In Thanksgiving
to the Blessed Virgin Mary**
req Ruby Fernandez

+ **12:00NN** **Carol Ann Hinkley**
req The O'Shea Family

Thursday, Feb. 6 *Saint Paul Miki
and Companions, Martyrs*

+ **6:30AM** **Carmine Romano**
req Anna Anagnos

+ **8:30AM** **Marilyn Jacoby**
req Tony & Marie Malloy

12:00NN **Special Intention of Ava Mazzola**
req Mitch & Judy Santlofer

Friday, Feb. 7

+ **6:30AM** **Camilo Garcia, Jr.**
req Patricia & Richard Engel

+ **8:30AM** **Margaret Dunworth**
req Her Family

+ **12:00NN** **Eileen Burke**
req Mary Klingenburger & Ann Acker

Saturday, Feb. 8 *Saint Jerome Emiliani;
Saint Josephine Bakhita, Virgin*

+ **8:30AM** **Jaime Cardona**
req Maria Cardona

5:30PM **For the People of the Parish**

Sunday, Feb. 9 *Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time*

+ **8:00AM** **Angela Alkema**
req Tim & Trina Bradley

+ **9:30AM** **Giuseppina Zimmitti**
req Pat & Grace Gallo

+ **11:00AM** **Domenico Busanic**
req Nick & Mary Morin

+ **12:30PM** **Marie & Jay Pallone**
req Louise Pallone

+ **3:00PM** **Alicia & Edgar Aguilar**
req Rocio Aguilar & Family

+ **4:30PM** **Carl Funke**
req Russ & Marianne Titus

1. Malachi 3:1-4

In this final prophetic book before the New Testament, the people of Israel are never satisfied with all that God has done for them. Though God has led them back from exile and the Temple rebuilt, the people remain lax in their liturgical, spiritual and moral life and they question what happened to God's justice and what advantage there is in living a virtuous life. Through the prophet, God responds that a day of judgment is coming, but because He is gracious and forbearing, God will send a messenger to announce the approach of that day. God will come suddenly to the Temple, the place God chose to be among them from the early days of the Kingdom, but will they be ready, will they be prepared by the way they live?

2. Hebrews 2:14-18

When some Jewish Christians were experiencing a nostalgia for their Jewish roots, this author produces an insightful explanation on the superiority of Christ over all that preceded Him in Judaism. In this excerpted passage, the Hebrews are reminded that Jesus needed to (and did) become like the descendants of Abraham in all things, in their difficulties and their sufferings and their testings. But because He was tested like them and yet was faithful, He was able to be the perfect high priest to expiate the sins of all humans.

3. Luke 2:22-40

The Holy Family comes to the Temple in observance of two rituals of the Jewish law, the purification of the mother and the "buying back" of the first born son (who technically should be offered to the Lord). Thus, Luke describes the parents of Jesus as traditional, devout and pious Jews. Luke highlights their poverty in the offering, not a lamb and pigeon (which would have been normal) but two turtledoves, the offering of the poor. Two elderly prophets, Simeon and Anna, witness the rituals. Their presence, and especially Simeon's prophecy, highlights the messianic tone of Luke's narrative, recalling the prophetic words of Malachi in the first reading.

REFLECTIONS FOR THE WEEK

1. How do you recognize God in your life? Or do you?
2. Do you really think that Christ understands your difficulties, sufferings and testing? What does this say about your confidence and trust in Him?
3. What is your reaction to the content of Simeon's prophecy—fall and rise, sign of contradiction, the sword that pierces? Do you see any of these things in your own life?

NEXT WEEKEND'S PRESIDERS

Sat. 2/8	5:30PM	Fr. Frank
Sun. 2/9	8:00AM	Fr. Ron
	9:30AM	Fr. Frank
	11:00AM	Fr. Ron
	12:30PM	Fr. Ron
	3:00PM	Fr. Vitrano
	6:30PM	Fr. Frank

Late changes appear on the website after 12NN the Saturday of that weekend.

Super Bowl Sunday Note: Last Mass on Sunday, Feb. 9 will be at 4:30PM



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